



Daily Report

East Asia

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French Minister Meets With SPF Delegates

*LD1809090995 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0800 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talks between Pacific leaders and the French Government in Port Moresby [Papua New Guinea] have resulted in a promise of more aid for the region and international inspection of French nuclear test sites. Speaking to reporters after a closed session with delegates from the South Pacific Forum [SPF], France's cooperation minister said his government was also considering signing a treaty to set up a Pacific nuclear-free zone. Jacques Godfrain said the International Atomic Energy Agency had agreed to a French request to send a mission to Mururoa Atoll and had no objection to New Zealand and Australian requests to be part of the mission. At its annual summit meeting in Madang, Papua New Guinea, last week, the Forum plus Australia and New Zealand expressed outrage at the resumption of French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Mr. Godfrain acknowledged that the French-Pacific relations were poor, and he would pass on the Forum's position at a cabinet meeting in Paris on Wednesday. However, he denied that a new offer to increase aid for education, telecommunications, energy, and fishing was designed to placate Pacific nations. The Forum has warned France that it risks exclusion from future regional dialogue if it conducts another nuclear test.

SPF Leaders Reject French Invitation to Mururoa

*BK1809103595 Hong Kong AFP in English
0951 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PORT MORESBY, Sept 18 (AFP) — South Pacific Forum [SPF] leaders Monday flatly rejected a French invitation to member countries to send scientists to Mururoa atoll after the current series of nuclear tests end.

French Cooperation Minister Jacques Godfrain had made the offer while speaking at the South Pacific Forum dialogue session which followed last week's summit in Madang, north of here.

Dialogue chairman and Papua New Guinean National Planning Minister Moi Avei said at a press conference that the proposal was unacceptable to South Pacific countries.

"As Pacific islanders I have stated quite categorically that any scientific or any environmental study after the event is extremely futile," Avei said, adding later the mission proposal was "a political charade".

Avei said environmental science was imprecise and any environmental damage will only surface at Mururoa decades later.

"We have lived in the Pacific Ocean for thousands of years and our people have accumulated certain amount of empirical knowledge about Pacific ecology and no one is going to convince us that any threats to that delicate balance is not going to affect the habitat of the Pacific people in a hundred years time," he said

France wanted to make the Pacific feel comfortable by sending scientists, Avei said.

"As the head of the Papua New Guinean delegation I will be advising the prime minister (Sir Julius Chan) not to entertain this as it would be tantamount to endorsing the current testing programme."

The French minister said he will report back to Paris.

"On Wednesday morning at the cabinet council in Paris I shall say that relations are not good, not at all," Godfrain said. "They have a position against the tests, okay, but out of that position they want to cooperate with us, and we want to cooperate with them. It is very simple."

Japan**Rape by Servicemen Fuels Anti-U.S. Sentiment***OW1609123595 Tokyo KYODO in English**1105 GMT 16 Sep 95*

["News Focus"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, Sept. 16 KYODO — The abduction and rape of an Okinawan elementary school girl by two U.S. Marines and a sailor earlier this month has fueled local opposition against the massive U.S. military presence on the island and sparked calls for a revision of the bilateral bases agreement.

The U.S. forces tried to calm the public outcry by canceling four days of Marine Corps live ammunition drills slated to start in Okinawa, Japan's southernmost prefecture, on Monday [18 September].

And Maj. Gen. Wayne Rollings, commander of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, expressed his sympathy to the Okinawan people and the victim's family in a letter to Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota.

"I want to express my deepest regret to the family regarding the assault of their daughter," Rollings wrote. But these efforts were of little avail.

Community leaders are stepping up calls for a revision of the Japan-U.S. Status-of-Forces Agreement to ensure that Japanese police can arrest U.S. military personnel suspected of crimes.

The alleged rapists, Navy Seaman Marcus D. Gill, 22, Marine Pfc. Kendrick M. Ledet, 20, and Marine Pfc. Rodrico Harp, 21, were placed under U.S. military custody after Japanese police put them on the wanted list.

Under the bases agreement, they have to be turned over to Japanese authorities only after being indicted in a Japanese court.

Tsutomu Arakaki, deputy chairman of the Okinawa Bar Association, denounced the practice as one of the "inequalities" of the bases agreement.

"This regulation limits Japan's right of jurisdiction. The bases agreement includes other unfair articles such as that giving the U.S. the right to rule in the first instance in case of accidents and crimes committed on duty," he said.

In addition, local distrust of the U.S. military's readiness to honor even the current agreement is deeply seated. Two years ago, a soldier who was indicted on charges of having raped a local woman managed to escape to the U.S. after his military detention was lifted.

The three soldiers currently under detention allegedly abducted a local girl at random on Sept. 4 at around 8 P.M., forcing her into their car as she passed them on her way home from shopping.

Police say the men, who had apparently been drinking alcohol, took the girl to an isolated beach where they raped her after tying her up with adhesive tape.

To many Okinawans, the incident has brought back bitter memories of the occupation period when the prefecture saw a series of murders and rapes of locals involving U.S. troops, but U.S. courts martial hardly ever handed down a guilty verdict.

Hiroaki Fukuchi, head of the Okinawa Human Rights Association, accused the U.S. military of cultivating a victor's mentality.

"Even 23 years after Okinawa's return to Japan, the American military looks down on the Okinawan people. Having captured Okinawa after a great deal of bloodshed in the Pacific war, they consider the island as their own. Here they unscrupulously do things they could never do in the United States or in Tokyo," he said.

Okinawa, site of fierce fighting between Japanese and American forces in the closing stages of World War II, came under U.S. occupation in 1945 and was returned to Japan only in 1972.

Today, some 40,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan under the bilateral security pact and about 75 percent of American military facilities in Japan are located in Okinawa, constituting a major source of anti-American sentiment in the region.

Gov. Ota, who went to Washington in May to renew demands for U.S. troop reduction, will file protests Tuesday with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono urging that the bases agreement be revised and troop discipline enforced.

The Okinawa Peace Movement Center, which has the backing of several labor unions, has called a rally against the U.S. military presence for Sept. 26, which some 3,000 local residents are expected to attend.

A senior prefectural official, summing up a prevailing Okinawan opinion, said, "there is crime because there are military bases."

Changing Status of U.S. Forces Pact Suggested*OW1809090095 Tokyo KYODO in English**0828 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ogawa, Japan, Sept. 18 KYODO — Defense Agency chief Seishiro Eto indicated Monday [18 September] he would like to have the

agreement concerning the status of U.S. military personnel in Japan reconsidered so suspects in crimes can be taken into custody by Japanese police sooner.

"For it to be possible for (the suspects) to be taken into custody quickly, (the agreement) must be studied and this includes the Foreign Ministry," Eto told reporters at the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) Hyakuri base in Ogawa, Ibaraki Pref.

Reporters were questioning the Defense Agency chief in the wake of a public outcry caused by the alleged abduction and rape of an elementary schoolgirl in Okinawa by two U.S. marines and a sailor.

The servicemen are being held by U.S. military authorities in Okinawa and may only be turned over to Japanese police after being indicted by Japanese public prosecutors under the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement.

The incident has fueled calls for a reduction of the U.S. military presence in Okinawa and for a revision of the agreement.

"Revising the Status of Forces Agreement is fundamentally an issue for the Foreign Ministry," Eto said.

Eto added, "as director general of the Defense Agency, I think (the incident) was extremely regrettable and I call upon the U.S. military to prevent this kind of thing from happening again."

Meanwhile, former Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi, campaigning for the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party, told a television audience that he wanted to see a reduction in the U.S. military and Japan taking a greater role in its own defense.

Eto said he cannot support Koizumi's view of taking over the U.S. military's role.

In Tokyo, a top government spokesman also expressed anger at the U.S. soldiers' attack on the girl.

"It is regrettable to say the least. In fact, it enrages me," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka told a news conference.

Nosaka Says No Renegotiation of SOFA Planned
OW1809130895 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN NEWS
CONFERENCE REPORT in Japanese
0926 GMT 18 Sep 95

[News conference by Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka with unidentified domestic reporters at the Prime Minister's Official Residence in the afternoon of 18 September]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted on Nosaka commenting on calls for the World Trade Organization

to set up a study panel to look into the issue of Japan's liquor tax]

[Reporter] In Okinawa Prefecture an elementary schoolgirl has been raped by U.S. soldiers. The U.S. forces on Okinawa are currently keeping those U.S. soldiers in custody and not turning them over to Japanese authorities under the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]. As a result, Okinawa Prefecture is demanding a review of the SOFA. What is the government's view of this?

[Nosaka] In Okinawa Prefecture U.S. soldiers have raped a fourth-grade elementary schoolgirl and I deeply regret this incident. To explain my feelings, I regret it to the point of outrage. Okinawa Prefectural Governor Ota has reported to me that his prefectural government has lodged stern protests with U.S. forces on Okinawa over the rape.

The U.S. soldiers are now in custody. U.S. forces on Okinawa are currently investigating the rape and questioning the U.S. soldiers involved in raping the elementary schoolgirl while keeping them in custody. Japanese authorities are also investigating and questioning. The question is whether the U.S. forces on Okinawa or Japanese authorities keep them in custody.

U.S. forces on Okinawa are responding positively to requests from Japanese authorities and I believe that there will be no change in the present situation under which U.S. forces on Okinawa hold these U.S. soldiers in custody. The government intends to continue watching to see how this rape incident is handled.

[Reporter] Do you mean that for now, the government has no intention to seek a change in the SOFA?

[Nosaka] Yes, you are right. For the moment, the government has no such an intention.

Editorial on U.S. Reaction to Rape Case

OW1509061295 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
14 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: U.S. Forces Making Light of Okinawan People]

[FBIS Translated Text] What actually do the Japanese Government and the U.S. Forces think of protests we repeatedly lodged against crimes and accidents stemming from the presence of U.S. military bases on the island? Three U.S. soldiers raped a little schoolgirl. Outraged by the incident, Okinawans have increased momentum by launching a series of protest movements.

As of 13 September, the Okinawa prefectural assembly, local governments in Northern Okinawa, and city

assemblies of Naha, Okinawa, and Urasoe adopted a protest resolution demanding extradition of the criminals. All local political parties sent delegations to the Naha Regional Defense Facilities Administration Bureau and the U.S. Consulate General to demand their help in preventing the recurrence of such incidents.

Local residents repeatedly file protests whenever crimes and accidents involving U.S. soldiers happen. However, U.S. forces have so far taken no action to improve the situation; they have only extended apologies.

Although the prefectural government rightfully expected an apology from the senior commander of the U.S. Forces in Japan, what it received was a "letter of apology" sent from the Marine's public relations office on the island — a reaction that could be interpreted as an insult to local people. Major General Wayne E. Rollings, U.S. Forces Okinawa area coordinator, was supposed to visit the prefectural government to extend his apology. Instead, the U.S. forces tried to get away with one "letter of apology." Such an attitude is unforgivable.

It is obvious that the U.S. military puts its business ahead of human rights of local people. "It is only natural for top U.S. officers to visit the government and apologize to us in person. It is unbelievable that they did not do so." It is no surprise that within the prefectural government distrust of the U.S. military is deepening.

When Takayama, outraged by this insincere apology, visited Camp Butler, Rollings promised to consider the early extradition of suspects and the revision of military regulations within several days.

Since Okinawa's reversion to mainland Japan, there have been 12 murder cases committed by U.S. soldiers outside the bases. When other type of crimes are also considered, no one knows how frequently U.S. soldiers are involved in criminal activities. In each incident, the U.S. officials repeatedly promised a strict enforcement of official discipline. Despite that, crimes and accidents continue to occur. We demand to know what the U.S. forces have done to prevent the recurrence of these incidents.

Article 17 Section 5 of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA] stipulates: "When U.S. servicemen and their families commit crimes, they shall be detained by U.S. authorities until Japanese law enforcement agencies file complaints with the prosecutors' office based on clear suspicion." It gives U.S. authorities a right to refuse Japanese investigators' request to hand over suspects when they are attached to the military. This has been a major obstacle to the investigations of local police.

Indicating how seriously the prefectural government is taking the rape case, officials will ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. embassy in Japan to consider "extradition of the suspects before indictment."

The Naha Regional Defense Facilities Administration bureau — an arbitrator between local people and the U.S. military over base-related issues — has avoided responding to the call for the SOFA revision prompted by this incident, because "we are not in the position to comment on it." Whenever protests emerge from local people, the bureau takes an "indifferent" attitude, saying "we conveyed your protest to the U.S. forces." Reflecting on this, a top official of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency once provoked a strong reaction among Okinawans with his statement that "Okinawa should change to accept coexistence with the military bases." He later retracted his controversial remark.

For Okinawans who are forced to accept the SOFA — an agreement unfavorable and unfair to Japan [Nihon gawa ni furi de fubyodo na] — coexistence with the U.S. bases is not an option. As long as these bases, which are part of an organization called the military, are here, we will never be able to retrieve our safe and peaceful life.

Kono To Urge Nuclear Disarmament, UN Reform

*OW1509082195 Tokyo KYODO in English
0749 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 15 KYODO — Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, in his speech at the UN General Assembly on Sept. 26, will urge nuclear powers to refrain from conducting nuclear tests, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday [15 September].

Kono has decided to take up nuclear disarmament issues as the principle subject in his speech because of growing international criticism against nuclear testings conducted by France and China, the officials said.

Kono will stress that the nuclear powers — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — should take responsibility for promoting nuclear disarmament as a result of the decision on indefinite expansion of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

But Kono will leave a decision on naming France and China until the date of his speech after judging how the two nations deal with the nuclear issue, the officials said.

Despite international uproar, France resumed nuclear testing in the South Pacific in September, while China conducted two underground nuclear tests earlier this year.

Kono will also seek an early solution to conclude the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which would ban all tests in the atmosphere, underwater and below the ground, as well as nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In his speech, Kono will also renew Japan's bid for a permanent UN Security Council (UNSC) seat and advocate reform of the United Nations in view of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the world body.

During the General Assembly session, Kono will demand other UN members reach an agreement on reform of the UNSC.

Based on recognition that poverty is the root of regional conflicts, Kono will urge the UN to set new development strategies and strengthen the function of its Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc).

In this regard, Kono will propose the establishment of a new 15-member bureau in the Ecosoc that will have the right to advise the council.

Kono will also express Japan's willingness to take part in UN-led peacekeeping operations and contribute more to efforts to solve global environmental and refugee problems.

French Minister Told of Disappointment Over Tests
OW1809075495 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 17 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 3

[By Masaharu Shimokawa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Port Moresby, 16 Sep — Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Yasuo Fukuda, who is now in Port Moresby, capital of Papua New Guinea to attend a meeting between the South Pacific Forum (SPF) and nonmember countries, met French Minister Delegate for Cooperation Jacques Godfrain on 16 September. At the meeting, Fukuda said: "The Japanese people are very disappointed that France, a nation of high culture, forced through the nuclear tests."

In response, Godfrain said: "A government cannot fulfill its responsibilities by only listening to public opinion."

Fukuda, on the same day, met Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord. The Free Association Compact that the United States has concluded with Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands will expire in 2001. Touching on this, Lord said: "U.S. Government aid will be gradually reduced."

Australia's Evans on UN Nuclear Test Resolution
OW1809010395 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN
in Japanese 14 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 1

[Report on "exclusive interview" with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans by TOKYO SHIMBUN correspondent Kawase Makoto in Melbourne on 13 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] Melbourne (Australia), 13 Sep — Australia plans to submit a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly [UNGA] during its regular session demanding a halt to nuclear tests with the French and Chinese tests in mind. In an exclusive interview with TOKYO SHIMBUN correspondent Kawase Makoto in Melbourne on 13 September, Australian Foreign Minister Evans said, "Australia will not unilaterally submit the draft resolution to the UNGA. It is considering submitting the draft with other nations without mentioning the names of France and China." He also made clear that Australia is now consulting with nations concerned, including Japan, about jointly submitting the draft resolution to the UNGA.

Explaining why Australia has deleted the names of France and China from the draft resolution, the Australian foreign minister said, "The absence of the names of France and China in the draft will lead more nations to support adopting it." He added that the draft resolution contents are supposed to carry the same importance as those of one that names the two countries. He expressed confidence in the draft resolution that implicitly calls upon the two countries to halt their nuclear tests.

On nations that Australia is seeking to jointly submit the draft resolution with, the Australian foreign minister expressed high expectations of the Japanese Government, saying, "We are now negotiating with Japan and we are confident that we will win assistance from Japan." He went on to say, "If many more nations submit the draft resolution, the resolution would be more powerful. I believe that Asian-Pacific nations will join Australia in submitting the draft resolution to the UNGA."

In the exclusive interview, he indicated that progress is being made in shaping a cooperative posture between ASEAN members and Latin American nations to push for the abolishment of nuclear weapons. He added, "In particular, the cooperative posture with Chile and Mexico is very strong. A joint meeting will be held between ASEAN nations and the two Latin American nations in New York."

Commenting on France's recent nuclear test in defiance of international antinuclear opinion, the Australian foreign minister blasted French President Chirac's decision

to resume nuclear tests by saying, "For the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to be concluded next year, many nations need to support it. France's recent nuclear test will have an adverse impact on that."

Tokyo, EU Settle Dispute Over Mobile Phones

*OW1809103795 Tokyo KYODO in English
0934 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 18 KYODO — Japan and the European Union (EU) confirmed Monday [18 September] they have settled a bilateral dispute over mobile phones by ensuring that a 1994 Japan-U.S. mobile phone accord does not discriminate against European companies, a Foreign Ministry official said.

European Commission Vice President Leon Brittan and Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono confirmed during a 40-minute talk that the dispute is over, the official said.

The EU had questioned the propriety of the Japan-U.S. agreement, calling it discriminatory against European makers in favor of U.S. communications equipment giant Motorola Inc.

Under the deal, Japan agreed to allow Nippon Idou Tsushin Corp. (IDO) to set up radio wave relay stations that run on the technical formula developed by Motorola.

The official said Japanese and EU officials had already settled the dispute over the Japan-U.S. phone deal during negotiations last week in Geneva under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) dispute settlement procedures.

During the latest talks, the Japanese and EU officials confirmed that the essence of the Japan-U.S. phone accord was that the government will not exert any influence over economic activities by the private sector, the official said.

The EU filed an official complaint with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) last fall and Japan and the EU discussed the issue for the first time last December.

After GATT was replaced by the WTO in January, the EU renewed its official complaint with the global trade referee in August.

On other topics, Brittan told Kono the EU continues to have strong interest in Japan's deregulation efforts and plans to submit a list of requested items for deregulation, the official said.

Japan plans to review its deregulation program in late March.

The EU submitted 160 items for deregulation last March, of which it said 39 have been addressed positively.

Chernomyrdin on Bosnia Conflict, Other Issues

*OW1609064195 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 15 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 8*

[Summary of "exclusive interview" with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with ASAHI SHIMBUN staff at the government building in Moscow on 13 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow Bureau, 14 Sep — The following is a summary of remarks by Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin in an exclusive interview with ASAHI SHIMBUN.

On Bosnian Conflict and NATO

There is a clear danger of dividing Europe again. We are very angry at the situation. World War I started in Bosnia. NATO's air strikes have yielded nothing. President Yeltsin has proposed that superpowers involved in the Bosnian conflict and the former Yugoslavia hold a summit meeting, and all issues arising from the Bosnian conflict should be settled at the summit meeting. I hope that this tragedy will not spill over into the rest of Europe. The past confrontation between military blocs should not be allowed to be revived again.

We oppose expanding NATO. While the Warsaw Treaty Organization was dismantled, NATO still remains unchanged, launching air strikes in Bosnia. If NATO expands its sphere to Baltic nations and Poland, we do not know how we would explain that to our people. We are not moving against NATO and we are willing to cooperate with it. If NATO is expanded, then we will not only oppose its expansion, but take concrete and proper measures against its expansion. Our people will not tolerate it.

The Situation on the House Election

The house election will be a most important trial. I do not believe that a single party will gain enough votes to set back all we have done so far. Nonetheless, we do not take the situation lightly. We need to carry out vigorous activities to make the people understand what the government has aimed for, what it has achieved, and how its achievements have contributed to improving their lives.

We are now working on the destruction of old things. Opposition parties are winning points by blaming the hardship of life on their destruction. We will run into difficulties in next year's presidential election. In

campaigning for both the lower house election and the presidential election, we will carry out our actions based on one single line. In other words, this single line is aimed at speedily forming a market economy and creating conditions for developing and bolstering it. We should not ignore Zhirinovsky (the Liberal Democratic Party), Zyuganov (the Communist Party) and Lebeji and Skokov [names as transliterated] (the Russian People's Community Republic) [name of party as translated]. They are radical opposition parties. Disasters brought about by Zhirinovsky will not affect only Russia. He should not be allowed to incur such disasters.

The nationalists are playing with present difficulties and national sentiment. National pride is an important feeling for Russians. But it is dangerous to hurt their feelings. Many of the nationalists are regarded as xenophobic.

Relationship With President

I cooperate closely and perfectly with the president. There is no cause for us to confront each other. We will have to do all we can do to prepare for the presidential election. We will not win a landslide in the December house election. We will have to make preparations and put the final touches on the preparations for the house election. We also will have to wage our campaign in the presidential election based on those preparations. In that sense, I and the president are an allied duo. "The Our House Russia" has been formed out of consideration for the situation where democratic forces are split. I would have been unable to become leader of the "Our House Russia" without the president's judgment.

Japan-Russia Relations

Both Russia and Japan are neighbors. As it is said that "neighbors cannot be chosen," the two nations have no choice but to cooperate with each other. Both Russia and Japan have great potential. Russia will cooperate with Japan in fishing operations by Japanese fishing boats in waters near the Kurils (the Northern Territories) and the two countries should hold intense negotiations to conclude a pact. Russia has resources that can be developed jointly by the two countries, and these resources lie in east Siberia and the Far East of Russia. Japanese corporations are taking a wait-and-see attitude toward Russia. The economy is supposed to be able to remove many political issues.

Kono Pledges Continued Economic Support to Peru

OW1809090895 Tokyo KYODO in English
0813 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 18 KYODO — Foreign Minister Yohei Kono told Peruvian President

Alberto Fujimori on Monday [18 September] that Japan will continue to offer economic support for Peru's efforts to achieve social development, Foreign Ministry officials said.

In a luncheon meeting, Kono praised Fujimori's efforts over the past five years in tackling terrorism, inflation and economic development and told the president that Japan will continue to extend assistance to Peru, the officials said.

But he did not cite specific projects for future cooperation, they said.

Fujimori, who is on an unofficial visit to Japan since Friday, told Kono that Japan's economic cooperation with Peru is being used effectively and expressed expectations of further aid.

Also during the meeting, Fujimori voiced strong concern over French nuclear tests because the South Pacific borders South America, the officials said.

Kono repeated Japan's opposition to the nuclear testing by China and France, they said.

Fujimori is stopping over in Japan after attending the UN Women's Conference in Beijing.

DA Official To Visit Southeast Asia for Talks

OW1809010895 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 14 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] On 13 September, the Defense Agency [DA] decided to send a high-ranking official, who is in charge of establishing relations of trust with other nations, to Southeast Asian countries for about a week from 24 September to call on the defense authorities in these countries to participate in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF). This is the first time for the DA to dispatch a high-ranking official in charge of defense policy to Southeast Asia. During his trip, the official will discuss with these nations such matters as the military situation in the region and each country's defense policy.

The dispatch of a high-ranking official to Southeast Asia is significant. With this as a start, the DA will promote in earnest military and defense exchanges at the level of officials in charge of defense policy, as it does with South Korea and China. The dispatch is expected to produce results. The countries the high-ranking official will visit include Vietnam, a socialist state that joined ASEAN only recently. It is virtually the first time for Japan to hold high-level military and defense talks with Vietnam.

The high-ranking official to be dispatched is Keiji Omori, a defense councilor who was appointed to the post established in July "in charge of building up relations of trust with other countries and of military equipment." He will visit Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam from 24 September to 1 October to hold talks with high-ranking officials, including generals, in charge of defense policy.

The DA characterizes military and defense exchanges as the "main pillar of the post-Cold War security policy" (as stated by DA Director General Seishiro Eto). Such exchanges aim at increasing the transparency of each country's military strength and defense policy (to establish relations of trust) and avoiding unnecessary military buildup.

There is no multilateral security system in the Asia-Pacific region similar to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Thus, the ARF was established as a place for political and security talks in the region. ARF participants include ASEAN nations, Japan, the United States, Australia, South Korea, China, and Russia. At the second meeting in August, they agreed to Japan's proposal that each country should voluntarily submit its defense policy documents to the forum to establish relations of trust.

Not only foreign affairs officials but also defense authorities need to actively participate in the ARF to carry out measures to build up trust, including the disclosure of defense policies and opening military exercises to each other. Therefore, the DA has decided to discuss defense officials' participation in the ARF with Thailand, a key forum member and the host of the first ARF meeting; and Indonesia, a superpower in the region that will host next year's ARF gathering.

During his trip, Omori will urge countries he visits to actively participate in the ARF. He will brief them on Japan's defense policies, including its work to redefine the Japan-U.S. security pact to maintain and strengthen bilateral security arrangements and to review the "National Defense Program Outline." He will also exchange views on the region's military situation.

Upgrading ARF functions would be a shortcut to establishing a multilateral security system in the region. However, the ARF has become the place for foreign ministers to discuss foreign affairs.

Until recently, Vietnam had been one of the world's three major powers in terms of army strength. Although the country has been engaged in disputes with China over the rights to the Spratly Islands, it is expected to achieve economic development. (As stated by a senior DA official) "Japan is watching Vietnam's moves from

security viewpoints," but it has hardly had military exchanges with the country. Omori's visit to Southeast Asian countries will pave the way for defense ministers to participate in the ARF in the future.

Editorial Views Tokyo's Aid to Pyongyang

*OW1809010595 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 15 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 2*

[Editorial: "The Government Urged To Make Clear Principles for Aiding North Korea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government is reportedly planning to provide about \$500,000 in grants to North Korea that is suffering from flood damage. The government can expand the size of grant-in-aid to North Korea from the viewpoint of humanitarian assistance, but we cannot help but feel something inexplicable.

This year, North Korea, which suffers from a chronic shortage of rice following a poor rice crop, has twice asked other nations to provide massive rice aid. Why have North Korea's responses been so complicated and unfriendly toward the good intentions of the international community and its neighboring nations?

South Korea has expressed a willingness to help North Korea during its food crisis. However, it has taken a long time for North Korea to accept the offer. North Korea has held a South Korean rice transport ship on the grounds of a trivial action taken by a crew member shortly after it accepted the rice aid offer from Seoul.

In an interview with a South Korean magazine reporter, Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the DPRK Workers' Party of Korea, who is in charge of handling North Korea's policy toward Japan, described as a "humble offering out of apology" the 300,000 tons of rice that Japan has decided to provide to North Korea under very favorable terms.

This is an extremely eccentric and impolite response. In his letter addressed to a senior ruling party member, Secretary Kim Yong-sun retracted his controversial comment. However, the letter holds the South Korean magazine responsible for his controversial comment and not carried an explicit apology. In view of the fact that it has taken considerable time before the letter was addressed to the senior ruling party lawmaker after he made the controversial comment, we have no choice but to doubt North Korea's ability to quickly make high-level decisions.

The North Korean domestic situation appears to be in turmoil. While North Korea has propagated that this year's rice crop will be bumper one, it has accepted a fact-finding team from the UN Department of Humanitarian Aid (DHA). In response, some in Japan view that

North Korea is opening its closed society. What is more important than that is for the government to keep a close watch on whether that country is really going to open its society.

There are three points that the government needs to keep in mind in dealing with aid to North Korea. First, the government should handle flood aid as emergency disaster aid separate from the rice aid. The government should unequivocally make it a principle that Japan provides flood aid to North Korea under a multilateral aid program at the request of the United Nations. It is impossible for the government to provide grants-in-aid under the Official Development Assistance (ODA) to nations that Japan has no diplomatic relations with.

Second, the government should ask the United Nations for a clear explanation regarding the extent of flood damage, and the needs of medical and food aid. The government also should have full knowledge of how Japan's aid is used by North Korea because of North Korea's refusal to disclose everything to the outside world.

Third, the government needs to keep watching how North Korea's hostile policy toward Japan will change after North Korea receives the rice and flood aid from Japan. The government should never be optimistic. The government should not confuse the humanitarian aid that Japan plans to provide as a member of the international community with Japan's basic position on Japan-North Korea relations.

Editorial on Diplomatic Style With DPRK

*OW1809123195 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 10 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 5*

[Editorial: "Government Urged To Get Rid Of Mediators Whose Roles Are Uncertain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 9 September, the DPRK (North Korea) will mark its 47th founding anniversary. North Korea has not clarified the inauguration of the KWC secretary as state president even though it is more than one year since the demise of the late Secretary General Kim Il-song.

Regarding the timing of the election and inauguration of a successor, North Korea may have their own reasons. Judging from international standards, however, a successor, under normal conditions, is selected without delay when a head of state passes away.

Because of this, there are many observations and much speculation on why a successor has not been selected. North Korea is asking other countries to invest in the DPRK but it is indispensable for North Korea to stabilize the domestic situation and establish a

reputation that it respects international practices. North Korea needs explanations that are understandable to the international community in order to gain an international reputation.

North Korea announced that it is suffering heavily from damage caused by a recent flood, and called on the United Nations for help. According to North Korea, 5 million people were victims and the amount of damage has reached as high as \$15 billion. The North Korean Government sent a letter of sympathy and a \$200,000 contribution to the Japanese Government at the time of the great Hanshin earthquake. It is a matter of course for Japan to send a telegram of condolence and study the possibility of sending aid to the neighbor, who is suffering heavily.

But we would like the North Korean Government to understand that there is a negative atmosphere toward giving aid to North Korea. That is because there are uncertainties about the way rice aid was given to North Korea and also Japanese politicians' involvement in it.

In an interview, the influential South Korean magazine "MAL" said that North Korean Secretary Kim Yong-sun "continued to say that Japan will send rice to Korea as an apology for the past." Japan is calling on North Korea for an explanation. However, more serious is the fact that North Korean media are not telling the North Korean people that the rice aid was received as an expression of good will from Japan.

As regards the rice aid to North Korea, the Japanese people are very interested to know whether or not North Korean citizens received the rice knowing it was good will from Japan. Japanese politicians, who promoted the rice aid, have an obligation to report to the people how useful the rice was. We should not forget that the rice, used as aid to North Korea, was purchased with taxpayers' money.

Influential persons or dealers are always involved in Korean issues as mediators. This was no exception in the recent rice aid or request for aid regarding damage caused by the recent flood. Involvement of middlemen is not peculiar to Japan-DPRK relations. Mediators are also frequently involved in Japan-ROK relations too but we have to understand that such a diplomatic practice tends to create suspicions involving rights and interests and is not supported by the people at all. A relationship accepted and respected by the people in both countries becomes the foundation of friendship in the future.

There was a movement to use a mediator for the U.S.-DPRK negotiations too. But we should learn a lesson from the fact that the U.S. Government flatly rejected the idea. We should avoid a situation, in

which politicians who have no responsibilities for their diplomatic negotiations or persons interested are involved. Moreover, Japanese politicians should not act as if they are representing the interests of North Korea.

The North Korean Government should not ask for additional rice aid or help for flood damages through such influential persons or middlemen. It should convey its intentions directly to the Japanese Government or diplomatic authorities. This is a shortcut to make Japan-DPRK relations transparent and to gain the understanding of the Japanese people.

Official Rebuts XINHUA's Nonnuclear Remarks

*OW1809105295 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 15 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference on 14 September Naoaki Murata, vice minister of the Defense Agency [DA], refuted a report from 13 September by China's state-run XINHUA NEWS AGENCY that criticized Japan's three nonnuclear principles. The report said: "U.S. ships carrying nuclear weapons freely enter and leave Japan's waters and ports. (The three non-nuclear principles) have become a mere scrap of paper." He said: "Which part has become meaningless? We have never possessed or produced nuclear weapons nor permitted their entry. The principles are observed faithfully."

Murata also confirmed the fact that Major General Johannes Kusters, commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights in the Middle East, where a Self-Defense Forces [SDF] mission is expected to be dispatched next February, has raised questions concerning the ruling parties' policy accord on the SDF dispatch program. He disclosed that "officials from the DA and other concerned ministries and agencies are visiting him to give an explanation."

Tokyo, Beijing Sign Extension of Trade Accord

*OW1809123295 Tokyo KYODO in English
1158 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, Sept. 18 KYODO — Japan and China signed an agreement Monday [18 September] to extend a five-year trade accord requiring each to export 8 billion dollars worth of goods to the other over the 1996-2000 period, officials of a Japanese delegation said.

The existing accord is due to expire at the end of this year.

The agreement on the extension was signed in Beijing by Ryosaku Kawai, chairman of the Japan-China Association on Economy and Trade, and his Chinese coun-

terpart Li Guohua, vice minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation.

Kawai is in the Chinese capital as head of the association's delegation on a weeklong tour of China.

Under the new agreement, China will decrease its annual crude oil exports to Japan to 6-8 million tons from the present 8.8-9.3 million tons due to rising domestic demand, the officials said.

Instead, they said China will increase exports of coking and steaming coal to more than 2.7 million tons and over 4.45 million tons from the present 1.4-1.8 million tons and 2.5-3.5 million tons.

Japan will continue to provide technology in such fields as electric power, communications, transport and petrochemical industries as well as industrial and construction equipment and materials, the officials said.

The original long-term trade arrangements were signed in 1978 to help Japan secure stable supplies of energy resources and contribute to China's economic development.

Hiroshima Chosen for Air Link With PRC

*OW1609054195 Tokyo KYODO in English
0329 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hiroshima, Sept. 16 KYODO — China has chosen Hiroshima as a new air link with Japan which could be opened as soon as next spring, Hiroshima Prefectural officials said Saturday [16 September].

Officials for the Civil Aviation Administration of China have told Hiroshi Suzuki, head of the prefectural government's airport bureau during his ongoing visit to China, that the Chinese airline to serve Hiroshima will be selected from among four applicants within this year.

In bilateral aviation talks, China had been asked to select one destination in Japan from a list of six domestic airports including Chitose near Sapporo, northern Japan, and Niigata along the Sea of Japan coast.

Hiroshima officials hope for a direct air link with Shanghai.

MOF Reports Trade Surplus Declining

*OW1809034795 Tokyo KYODO in English
0222 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 18 KYODO — Japan's trade surplus continued falling in August from year-earlier levels for the second straight month, down 1.3 percent, on the back of continued massive increases

in import volumes, the Ministry of Finance [MOF] said Monday [18 September].

On a customs-clearance basis, exports rose 12.6 percent to \$35.22 billion and imports grew 15.9 percent to \$29.26 billion, bringing the August trade surplus to \$5.97 billion, the ministry said in a preliminary report.

"Japan's trade surplus is basically on a downward trend," a ministry official said, citing continued import volume growth outpacing that for exports and drops in the yen-valued trade surplus for nine months in a row.

The official attributed the 1.3 percent yearly surplus decrease in August compared with the more than 20 percent drop in July to a sharp fall in crude oil imports — a special summer factor.

Japan's import of crude and fuel oil in August dropped by \$530 million compared with the year-earlier level because of a cool summer until early in July, the official said.

Assuming no drop in crude oil imports, the nation's August trade surplus will have fallen about 10 percent from a year earlier, he said.

The official expressed hope for further continued declines, though adding they would be affected by exchange rates, oil prices and overall economic trends.

The politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States fell from its level a year earlier for the third consecutive month, down 15.4 percent to \$2.94 billion.

Trade surplus with the European Union decreased from a year earlier for the second straight month, down 3.4 percent to \$1.03 billion, while that with Asian nations rose for the seventh month in a row, up 34.4 percent to \$5.39 billion.

In August, the dollar was quoted at an average 90.66 yen, down 9.9 percent from 99.64 yen for the corresponding month last year, according to the ministry.

In volume terms, exports increased 3.0 percent over the level a year earlier after a 0.3 percent fall in July, while imports rose 8.2 percent, marking the 28th consecutive month of yearly gains.

By product, exports of electronics parts like semiconductors continued increasing, up 47.2 percent, with those of integrated circuits (ICs) growing 49.8 percent.

Exports of steel increased notably by 41.4 percent, growing for the first time since November 1994, on the back of strong demand from Asian nations, the official said.

Exports of automobiles dropped 15.6 percent with the volume falling 19.7 percent to 286,052 vehicles.

Imports of office equipment like computers jumped 87.1 percent and those of electronics parts grew 64.6 percent.

Imports of crude oil fell 14.4 percent with its market price down 4.9 percent to \$17.38 per barrel from \$18.27 a year earlier, the official said. The volume also decreased by 10.0 percent, compared with a 15.8 percent yearly growth in the corresponding month last year.

Imports of automobiles increased 20.8 percent with the volume edging up 0.5 percent to 28,814 vehicles.

The ratio of manufactured imports hit a record high of 60.0 percent, bettering the previous record of 58.9 percent marked in July, the official said.

The August figures did not reflect the yen's quick decline against the dollar in the currency markets since mid-August, the official said.

Asked about the effect of the yen's weakening, the official only said it would take several months for the foreign exchange rates to have an impact on the trade volume.

Mamoru Yamaguchi, an economist at the Nikko Research Center, said the downtrend in the nation's trade surplus may continue despite the yen's recent weakness.

Although the dollar has revived to almost the same level it traded at a year ago, imports are unlikely to quickly decrease and exports of automobiles may not rapidly recover, Yamaguchi said.

Tokyo Draws Up Economic Stimulus Package

OW1609050395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0216 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 16 KYODO — The government has put together an outline of a new economic stimulus package worth more than 10 trillion yen to be formally adopted Sept. 20, a national daily reported Saturday [16 September].

The package, which is aimed primarily at bringing the faltering economy back on a recovery path, will be financed by a second supplementary budget for fiscal 1995, which started in April, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN said.

In the supplementary budget, the government plans to earmark the largest ever additional outlay of nearly 2 trillion yen for public works projects to be financed by the central government.

As a way to galvanize real estate dealings and dissipate deflationary concerns, it will take 2 trillion yen worth of steps to encourage local municipalities to quickly

acquire real estate for public works projects, the paper said.

In addition, the government intends to accelerate the nation's economic restructuring by promoting deregulation and the improvement of infrastructures in the fields of science and technology, and data communications.

The following are the main points of the new pump-priming package.

(Measures to Boost Domestic Demand)

- Expansion of general public works spending (1 trillion to 1.5 trillion yen in terms of central government expenditure)

- Additional outlays for public works financed by local governments (more than 1 trillion yen)

- Spending on reconstruction works in disaster-damaged areas (several hundred billion yen)

- Spending on science and technology, and data communication facilities (around 400 billion yen)

- Outlays for the reconstruction of the areas hit by the great Hanshin earthquake (more than 1 trillion yen)

- Expenditure for measures to cope with the Uruguay Round multilateral trade agreement on agriculture (around 1 trillion yen)

- Promotion of housing construction (several hundred billion yen for increasing by 30,000 the number of houses financed by the governmental Housing Loan Corp.)

(Measures to Prevent Asset Deflation)

- Measures to spur real estate transactions

- Encouraging municipalities to acquire land ahead of the original schedule (2 trillion yen)

- Easing regulations on purchases of land by private-sector urban development organizations (an additional several hundred billion yen in government guarantees)

- Freezing the tax on theoretical dividends imposed when businesses buy back their own shares (until the end of March 1999)

(Promotion of Economic Restructuring)

- Measures to help small and midsize companies, such as lighter debt burdens (more than 1 trillion yen)

- Deregulatory steps

- Promotion of foreign investments in Japan and Japan's imports.

EPA Reports Show Increase in Real GDP

*OW1809075195 Tokyo KYODO in English
0648 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 18 KYODO — Japan's real gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 0.8 percent in the April-June quarter of 1995 from the previous quarter at an annualized pace of 3.1 percent, the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] said Monday [18 September].

The GDP, the total value of output of goods and services, omitting income from overseas, for the January-March quarter, grew a real 0.1 percent for an annualized 0.3 percent, following a decline of 1.0 percent in the previous quarter.

Of the inflation-adjusted 0.8 percent growth for the April-June quarter of 1995, domestic demand pulled up by 0.8 percentage point, while external demand contributed minus zero to the 0.8 percent GDP growth, the agency said.

Personal spending, which accounts for nearly 60 percent of the GDP aggregate, grew 0.8 percent and corporate capital spending, another pillar, rose 2.5 percent, the agency said.

The nation's real gross national product (GNP) — GDP plus net income from abroad — went up 0.8 percent or at an annualized gain of 3.0 percent in the reporting quarter, the agency said.

Keidanren Urges 'Voluntary' Surplus Target

*OW1809092395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0842 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 18 KYODO — A powerful organization of business leaders called Monday [18 September] for reducing the ratio of the nation's current account surplus to 1 percent of the nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in three years.

The Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) made this and other recommendations in a report addressed to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's cabinet, Keidanren officials said.

The report said the high surplus-to-GDP ratio of 2.6 percent in fiscal 1994, which ended March 31 this year, constitutes a structural factor to boost the value of the yen against the U.S. dollar.

"The current account surplus should be trimmed in a balanced expansion by increasing imports," the report said, projecting that the ratio will shrink to 1.93 percent after three years if the growth pace of public works

spending is raised to 6 percent per annum from the current 3-4 percent.

"The surplus-to-GDP ratio is not a numerical target, which threatens to result in managed trade, but a voluntary one," an official at the federation said.

The report also urges the coalition government to reduce corporate taxes and promote deregulatory measures, the officials said.

Nosaka on Yen's Slide, 'Orderly Reversal'

OW1809040795 Tokyo KYODO in English
0329 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 18 KYODO — A government spokesman Monday [18 September] welcomed the yen's recent slide against the U.S. dollar and hoped for a further decline.

"A ray of hope has appeared," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka said at a news conference, observing that the yen is still in the process of an "orderly reversal."

The need for such movement was reaffirmed at the Halifax Summit of the Group of Seven major economic powers in June.

He also said Tokyo will continue watching currency market movements closely and keep in touch with monetary authorities in other countries concerned.

Citing International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's contention, Nosaka added the yen's desirable level should be around 108 yen versus the dollar.

The U.S. currency was changing hands in the 104 yen level in trading in Tokyo on Monday morning.

Price Differences at Home, Abroad Viewed

OW1709055495 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN
in Japanese 12 Sep 95 Evening Edition p 1

[Article by Nobuo Matsunaga, director of the Japan Institute of International Affairs: "Price Differences at Home and Abroad"; from the "Radiation" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was when I went to Washington on a business trip shortly before the beginning of summer. On the evening of my arrival, I returned to my hotel and realized that I had forgotten to pack toothpaste in my suitcase. So, I went to a nearby supermarket and picked up a tube of Colgate toothpaste from the cosmetics shelf. As I walked over to get in line to pay at the cash register, I noticed a large sale sign posted on the wall. Stepping closer to the poster, I saw that it was an advertisement for a set of 10 white plastic coat hangers selling for a mere 99 cents. Since

the value of one dollar was less than 90 yen at the time, this meant the coat hangers were worth less than 9 yen each. I therefore decided to buy a set of the hangers as something to talk about when I returned home.

Undoubtedly, this was an advertisement for a bargain sale, which is very common in the United States although quite unthinkable in Japan. Nevertheless, it has been a while since all the talk about deregulation and price destruction. However, what has become of the issue of price differences of goods and services at home and abroad? How much of the benefits of a free trade system has been passed on to us? Such questions arise in my mind.

According to government studies conducted late last year, gasoline costs four times as much in Japan as in the United States while butter costs five times as much. The Japanese pay twice as much as Americans for postage, telephone bills, taxi fares, cosmetics, beer, and coke, among other products and services. Although prices on some products have dropped due to the recent appreciation of the yen against other currencies and the promotion of imports, I believe that in real life, Japanese people feel that prices in Japan are far more than double U.S. prices for similar products or services. It is obvious that unless these price differences are reduced, not only will the Japanese people be prevented from enjoying a better life despite their increased income, but Japanese products will lose their competitive edge in international markets as well.

Industrial output by government-regulated Japanese industries account for 41 percent of the gross domestic product, while that by U.S. industries account for only seven percent. This in itself is sufficient reason for Japan to further implement deregulatory measures. However, another important point is that Japanese consumers should speak out to assert their interests; that is, the Japanese public needs to further strengthen its influence over the government. The United States is known as a country where public opinion rules. The Japanese people should learn from the efforts of their American counterparts who pursue rationality.

Ministries Disagree on Loan Company Issue

OW1809021395 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO
in Japanese 9 Sep 95 pp 104-105

[Article by Tadahide Ikuta from "Deep Structure of Kasumigaseki" series: "The Wrangling Between the Finance Ministry and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry Has Already Involved Kasumigaseki"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Concerning the disposal of the bankruptcy of housing loan companies, the competition

between the Ministry of Finance [MOF] and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries [MAFF] is becoming hotter and hotter.

In case the MOF introduces public funds to dispose of the bad debt of eight housing loan companies [jusen], which is said to be more than 6 trillion yen, it intends to limit the introduction of public funds to the disposal of the loss of agricultural cooperative-affiliated financial institutions (having a balance amounting to 6.1 trillion yen, which is 45 percent of the total loan to the eight jusen), which are the biggest loan providers to the eight jusen. The MAFF, Norin Chukin Bank, and agricultural cooperative-affiliated financial institutions have strongly opposed the MOF by saying, "We cannot accept public funds. If public funds are to be introduced, that should be done directly to the jusen."

Why does the MAFF, as well as agricultural cooperative-affiliated financial institutions refuse the public funds by saying, "We do not need money." An MAFF leader explains, "Public funds are taxes. If we accept public funds, we will naturally be asked to take the responsibility for our management that compelled us to accept the public funds. After accepting the funds, we will be placed under the MOF's thorough control."

However, is it possible to impose the responsibility of the jusen business failure on agricultural cooperative-affiliated financial institutions?

In reality, financial institutions, which are the parent banks of housing loan companies, should assume the responsibility for their business operations. However, if the MOF uses public money to bail out the jusen, it must assume the responsibility for the business operations of private financial institutions. Therefore, the MOF itself is refraining from offering public funds to jusen to evade its supervisory responsibility."

This is the recrimination of responsibility between the MOF and MAFF.

In the midst of this, the MAFF gave a powerful punch on the MOF's jaw. On 19 August, ASAHI SHIMBUN disclosed on its front page the news that the MOF had given guarantee to agricultural cooperative-affiliated financial institutions that "jusen rehabilitation is the responsibility of their parent banks."

There was another fact in addition to this.

In addition to this scoop, it was brought to light that a "memorandum" to the same effect had been exchanged between Nobuyuki Teramura, then Banking Bureau director general of the MOF, and Takenori Manabe, then Economic Affairs Bureau director general of the

MAFF, concerning the jusen rehabilitation plan on 3 February 1993.

By the way, the presence of the "memorandum" sealed with the private seals of the two director generals has been known for some time within the MAFF, and there are many leaders who have read it. Moreover, copies have already been delivered to Diet members concerned with agriculture, forestry, and fisheries affairs.

However, on 24 August, the Financial and Securities Project Team of the ruling coalition parties officially asked the MOF and MAFF to submit the "memorandum," and both ministries complied with the request.

The "memorandum" is comprised of three clauses. The first clause is likely to cause trouble. It says, "To make parent banks promise positively the following in writing: Parent banks assume the responsibility for the rehabilitation of jusen in accordance with the rehabilitation plan. The MOF assumes responsibility so that a burden exceeding the present measure will not be forced on agricultural cooperative-affiliated financial institutions (Norin Chukin Bank, credit federations of agricultural cooperatives, and mutual insurance federations of agricultural cooperatives)."

The meaning of this will be stated later. Anyway, an atmosphere prevails within the MAFF that an official announcement of the memorandum's presence is welcome. An influential Economic Affairs Bureau leader says, "What is significant is that the relevant MAFF and MOF authorities submitted the memorandum together."

"It is true that the 'memorandum' is a 'gentleman's agreement' without legal significance. However, it is like a contract between individuals and can be called an 'official promise.' Therefore, the MOF will naturally be bound by the 'memorandum.'"

"We are adamant that parent banks should assume the responsibility for the rehabilitation of jusen."

In collecting data, I met more than 10 MAFF leaders, and most of them declared, "The MOF cannot overcome us in the jusen rehabilitation matter. We are fully confident of our success."

The reason for their confidence is said to be that in addition to the presence of the "memorandum," there is the most powerful lineup that can be hoped for in the disposal of the problem: the director general of the Economic Affairs Bureau, the councilor of the same bureau, the chief of the Finance Division, and the chief of the Agricultural Cooperative Division.

Hidetaka Tsutsumi, director general of the Economic Affairs Bureau, joined the MAFF in 1967; he was

promoted to his present position after going through such prestigious positions as chief of the minister's Secretariat Budget Division, as well as director of the Food Agency Management Department. He is said to be number one within the ministry for "intuition and courage." A ministry leader says, "He can get tough with politicians who are mostly members of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] who have strong ties with the MAFF. He is a natural for the role as a rescuer — the disposal of the *jusen* problem."

Finance Division chief Kikuhito Sugata and Agricultural Cooperative Division chief Ninoru Yoneda, who conduct negotiations with the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau under the direction of Director General Tsutsumi, entered the ministry together in 1973.

Many of the bureaucrats who entered the ministry in 1973 have a very forceful personality and they are politely shunned by everybody but are very forceful anyway. For example, in introducing Mr. Sugata, a magazine wrote about him as follows: "He has the appearance of a wandering samurai and is a man of manly and open character quite unlike a high-ranking bureaucrat."

Moreover, according to a MAFF section chief, Mr. Yoneda is a man with such a remarkable personality that he is a "popular Kasumigaseki figure." It is said that the two section chiefs can get tough with politicians.

Anyway, compared with the MOF Banking Bureau, which has an abundance of theorists, the MAFF Economic Affairs Bureau has "men of action" as people in charge. The MAFF may be thinking of pushing and pushing the MOF with its "intuition and courage."

Furthermore, a MAFF director general expressed the following view: "The MOF has been weakened by the scandal of a Budget Bureau leader. If the ministry acts against the 'memorandum,' it will be knocked down by the LDP. The LDP may even threaten the ministry with 'dissolution' if it is not careful."

The views and stories that have been introduced so far are strictly those of MAFF bureaucrats.

However, can the MAFF really vie with the MOF, the most powerful government agency, concerning the disposal of the housing loan company problem? In contrast with the irrepressible high spirits within the MAFF, leaders of other ministries and agencies assume a cool attitude toward the matter.

For example, an influential Ministry of International Trade and Industry leader has the following view: "If the MAFF sticks fast to the 'memorandum,' that is an optimistic attitude. The MOF is already cleverly

expressing that the 'memorandum' is a 'blank sheet of paper.'

"The MOF logic is: As written in the 'memorandum,' 'the rehabilitation' of housing loan companies is what the 'memorandum' is all about, not the 'disposal of bankruptcy.'

"It is said that Director General Tsutsumi of the Economic Affairs Bureau and chief Sugata of the MAFF Finance Division are good theorists. However, if the MOF Banking Bureau tries to talk the two men down by expounding on the financial system in technical terms, how far can they wage a battle of words?

"The MAFF can get tough with politicians. However, after all, it is logic that decides a game in Kasumigaseki."

The MAFF is confident because of "politics" behind it. However, will politics move as the ministry wishes? Even within the ministry itself a few people have raised a question.

A ministry division chief says, "As may be expected, the MOF is tough. To lay the groundwork for obtaining its object, the ministry is establishing contacts with 12 members of the Financing and Securities Project Team of the ruling coalition parties — six LDP members, four SDPJ (Social Democratic Party of Japan) members, and two Sakigake (Harbinger) members. It is impossible to say that the project team will back up the MAFF claim."

According to the accounts and the Economic Planning Agency Budget Division chief, there is an opinion in Kasumigaseki that: "Although the MOF is conducting an on-the-spot inspection of housing loan companies, it is very doubtful how far the ministry is going to publicly announce the inspection results. In preparing its report, the MOF is very likely to manipulate its contents in its favor. The MAFF will be unable to do anything about it."

The problem of housing loan companies will be exposed to a fierce offensive and defensive battle in Kasumigaseki in the future. However, in the end, both the MOF and MAFF will compromise at a proper time and end the battle to introduce "public funds and taxes."

Wrangles between government agencies are very much tinged with "collusion," and it is a common practice to "compromise" in the end for the benefit of the bureaucratic structure.

Antisubmarine Corps Expects Scale-Down in FY96

*OW1809015395 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN
in Japanese 11 Sep 95 Evening Edition p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] On 11 September, the Maritime Staff Office [MSO] decided to reduce the number of

P3C antisubmarine patrol planes and HSS2B antisubmarine helicopters by four and five, respectively, in FY96. The office made the decision in anticipation of the scale-down of an antisubmarine corps, which has been studied in the government's review of the "National Defense Program Outline." The Maritime Self-Defense Force [MSDF] is the first of the Japanese forces to cut the number of operational aircraft that is categorized as "mainstay equipment" in a table attached to the defense program outline. With this, full-scale efforts will finally begin to scale down the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] in the post-Cold War era.

The plan to scale down the size of the antisubmarine corps cropped up during the Defense Agency's [DA's] review of the defense program outline, in response to Russia's drastic reduction of submarines following the end of the Cold War. There is a growing possibility that the number of antisubmarine planes and helicopters will be reduced in stages.

However, the P3C is considered the symbol of the MSDF, which currently has as many as 97. Japan comes next to the United States in the number of P3C's. Also, the aircraft's flying time is so short that they cannot be immediately scrapped. The MSDF intends to continue the maintenance of P3C's and HSS2B's even after they are decommissioned so that they can be used as "alternate equipment" that will be sent to the front line whenever necessary.

The MSDF plans to promote the scale down of the antisubmarine corps in view of the "new defense program outline." It will abolish an escort unit in the Yokosuka Division in Kanagawa Prefecture in the next fiscal year. Also, the number of minesweeper units will be reduced by one, as the MSDF plans to establish one in the Sasebo Division in Nagasaki Prefecture and abolish one each in the Yokosuka Division and the Maizuru Division in Kyoto.

The MSDF worked out this reduction plan based on the DA's proposal and in view of the conclusion the government's Security Council reached through its review of the defense program that there will be no change in the policy of scaling down the MSDF. A senior MSO official said: "Depending on the results of the Security Council discussions, we may be asked to abolish more units."

The SDF have so far taken the course of arms expansion to have sufficient "mainstay equipment" and "skeleton units" listed in the defense program's attached table. Although the MSDF is the only force to reduce its equipment, its reduction plan will draw much attention as it is Japan's bid to keep pace with the global trend

of arms reduction, which has emerged following the demise of the Soviet Union.

LDP's Michio Watanabe Died of Heart Failure

*OW1609003495 Tokyo KYODO in English
0452 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 15 KYODO — Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, an outspoken and conservative member of the dominant ruling coalition partner Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), died of heart failure at a Tokyo hospital early Friday [15 September], his aides said. He was 72.

The death of Watanabe, who was also former LDP vice president and once regarded as likely to be prime minister, is expected to further accelerate the shift of political power to the younger generation, political analysts said.

Watanabe, who also served as deputy prime minister and in key cabinet posts, was recently admitted to Tokyo Women's Medical College Hospital after his health deteriorated.

First elected a House of Representatives member in 1963 from Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo, Watanabe served several cabinet posts such as health and welfare, agricultural, finance, and trade portfolios.

Watanabe was instrumental in paving the way for resumption of talks with North Korea on normalization of diplomatic ties.

He visited Pyongyang last March at the head of a delegation comprising officials of the LDP-led tripartite ruling coalition, and signed an agreement calling for the restart of normalization talks, which have been stalled since 1992.

Later, he also helped expedite rice supplies to the communist nation as emergency aid to alleviate its food shortage.

The leader of one of the LDP's now nominally defunct factions, Watanabe sometimes caused uproars both at home and abroad with his controversial remarks.

Watanabe apologized for a speech in February 1988 in which he said some Chinese people lived in caves because of the country's bad political situation.

In July that year, he made comments insulting African Americans, inciting a rush of protests to the Japanese Embassy in Washington.

But domestically, his aggressive political style and hometown dialect were popular among supporters who sought his advice, especially on economic issues.

His funeral will take place at his Tochigi home Sunday.

Taking over an LDP faction from former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Watanabe formed his own faction in 1990.

He ran in the LDP's presidential election in 1991 but lost to Kiichi Miyazawa, who then became prime minister.

Watanabe, who became deputy prime minister and concurrently foreign minister in the Miyazawa cabinet formed in November 1991, was regarded as one of the most likely successors to Miyazawa.

Watanabe stayed in both posts after a cabinet reshuffle in December 1992, but resigned the posts in April 1993 after undergoing two operations for gallstones.

Shortly after the LDP lost substantial seats in a July 1993 general election and looked certain to lose power to a non-LDP coalition, Watanabe again ran in the LDP's presidential election held in the same month.

But he narrowly lost to Yohei Kono, who is the incumbent LDP president.

After then non-LDP Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa resigned in April 1994, Watanabe tried to win the premiership by joining non-LDP forces, but gave up the plan due to a lack of supporters.

In a Diet vote on the premiership after the resignation of then non-LDP Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, Watanabe, along with Nakasone, supported former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu who had bolted from the LDP.

In the LDP's presidential election to be held Sept. 22, Watanabe quickly expressed his support for Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

On news of Watanabe's death, Miyazawa said he had a streak of genius in his ideas about fiscal and economic policy.

Kono said it was regrettable that the LDP had lost someone who had guided him after he took the LDP presidency.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, now on a Middle East tour, mourned Watanabe's death in a message relayed to Tokyo, according to his office.

Voicing his shock at the news, Murayama, 71, recalled achievements of the man who belong to the same generation and expressed his deep condolences.

Officials Attend Wake

OW1609122495 Tokyo KYODO in English
1142 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Otawara, Japan, Sept. 16 KYODO — Former prime ministers Noboru Takeshita, Toshiki Kaifu and Tsutomu Hata were among the 3,000 people who attended a wake Saturday [16 September] evening for former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who died of heart failure Friday at the age of 72.

Takeshita told reporters at the wake in Otawara, Tochigi Prefecture, that Watanabe had told him Aug. 2 that he would enter a hospital the next day.

He said that throughout his career he had been in constant contact with such Liberal Democratic Party politicians as the late Rokusuke Tanaka, Ichiro Nakagawa, Shintaro Abe and Michio Watanabe.

With the passing of Watanabe, Takeshita said, "I feel like I'm left alone."

A private funeral is set for Sunday afternoon.

Watanabe, once touted as a strong candidate for prime minister, had also served as deputy premier and in key cabinet posts such as the health and welfare, agricultural, finance, and trade portfolios.

'End' of LDP Factional Politics

OW1809004895 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 16 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by editorial staff member Ando Toshihiro: "Watanabe Continued To Remain 'Politician of Real Intention' — His Death Symbolizes End of Liberal Democratic Party Factional Era"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Michio Watanabe was the last typical politician in the "factional era" of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. He focused all of his spiritual and physical energy on seeking out candidates and raising political funds. He used his faction as a foothold to aim for the post of prime minister, but he was unable to achieve his goal after he failed to ride on the wave of political reform and the drastic realignment of political parties largely because of his poor health. It seems that Watanabe's death symbolizes both nominally and virtually the end of factional politics that dominated a generation in Japan.

Watanabe proudly portrayed himself as a "politician of real intention." Masayoshi Ito was mentioned as a potential candidate to succeed Noboru Takeshita as prime minister after the Recruit scandal toppled the Takeshita administration. As conditions for his assumption of the premiership, Ito demanded the breakup of all factions

in the LDP and the resignation of all leaders of LDP factions. At the time, Watanabe was the first to attack Ito, saying, "You must stop making whitewashing statements."

"I believe that factions have so far shored up the LDP and it is impossible to maintain and expand the LDP's strength without those factions," said Watanabe at the time. His argument later led some LDP members to argue that the "only way to get rid of the factions is to embrace a single-seat constituency system." Ito became a pointman for reforming the electoral system after giving up the post of prime minister. Watanabe was well versed in policies and very good with figures. He was a staunch advocate of free economy. His overly straight remarks often triggered disastrous slips of the tongue that many critics said showed a lack of consideration for the minority and the weak. He was never unperturbed by the criticism. He disciplined himself and sought his soul whenever he made improper remarks. However, he did not change his straightforwardness.

Watanabe rose through the ranks in the political circles. He assumed the aspect of pragmatist. He was sympathetic to others and took care of them. Watanabe felt a sense of intimacy with Kakuei Tanaka, Zenko Suzuki, and Shin Kanemaru. However, he distanced himself from Takeo Miki and Takeo Fukuda. He and Nakasone shared nearly the same views on foreign and defense affairs, but they were not on good terms. Watanabe was overjoyed and confident when he took over the Nakasone faction from Nakasone in 1990 at the end of his painstaking efforts. He once boastfully said, "Whether I become prime minister or not depends on my luck. I will continue to remain leader of the faction for 10 years while exerting my influence."

In 1991, he came closer than ever to the prime minister's post when he contested with Kiichi Miyazawa in the LDP presidential election. He continued to exert strenuous efforts to the last moment to win the support of Shin Kanemaru, the king maker of that time, but he regrettably suffered a defeat in the LDP presidential election. He rose to the No. 2 post in the LDP from which "he could see the summit."

"Luck" did not side with him in recent years. He fell ill and the LDP's one-party rule ended. The prime minister's post was far away from him. Watanabe grew excited when Ichiro Ozawa, who was close to him, maneuvered to back Watanabe as a candidate to head a post-Hosokawa cabinet, but the majority of the Watanabe faction refused to go along with his bid for premiership. As a result, Watanabe only exposed the limit of his leadership in his faction.

The LDP factions have been on the decline since the single-seat constituency system was put into effect and the trends of money politics have been at a low ebb. On the other hand, the LDP has lost its vitality and it also failed to make a good show in the July upper house election. "How will the LDP maintain and expand its strength without its factions?" The LDP is saddled with many thorny issues following Watanabe's death.

Murayama Rules Out Resignation, Diet Dissolution
OW1809005195 Tokyo KYODO in English
0027 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Sept. 18 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama ruled out the possibility Sunday [17 September] that he may resign by the end of this year.

Meeting Japanese reporters accompanying him on his five-nation Middle East tour, Murayama said, "I'm not at all thinking of such a thing now."

Murayama also ruled out an early dissolution of the House of Representatives for a general election.

Wataru Kubo, secretary general of Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan, SDPJ], has said Murayama, 71, may leave office at the end of this year after the fiscal 1996 budget is compiled.

Kubo, no. 2 man in the SDP, which Murayama heads, has also said Murayama is likely to resign prior to the next general election.

Murayama said he rejects Kubo's idea that two separate individuals should hold the post of prime minister and that of leader of a new party to succeed the SDP.

The SDP is planning to disband in late October to form a new "democratic and liberal" party.

Political analysts said Murayama's remarks indicate Murayama predicts the formation of the new party will be delayed beyond late October.

Murayama indicated he will not become the chief of the new party and suggested former Hokkaido Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi as a possible leader.

The prime minister said the government will submit a bill to an extraordinary Diet session, to be convened in late September, to revise the law on religious organizations.

He said he hopes the bill will be enacted during the extraordinary Diet session.

The bill calls for revision of the law in response to a series of crimes allegedly committed by the Aum Shinrikyo religious cult.

In Tokyo on Monday [18 September], a government spokesman predicted Murayama may continue in office even after another person is picked as head of the planned new party.

"Prime Minister Murayama might not automatically step down even after a leader of the new party is decided," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka told a news conference.

Nosaka, a close aide to the premier, also indicated the need for Murayama to stay on until the fiscal 1996 national budget is approved.

Hashimoto, Koizumi Campaign in Osaka

OW1609132695 Tokyo KYODO in English
1300 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Sept. 16 KYODO — International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto pledged Saturday [16 September] to review Japan's antimonopoly and commercial laws to help transform the nation's economy to flexibly embrace the 21st century.

He also said in his stumping speech in Osaka that the new leadership of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) under him would consider a freeze on land taxes and other policies to help stimulate the domestic economy.

Hashimoto, the odds-on favorite, was in Osaka with his rival, former posts minister Junichiro Koizumi, in the Sept. 22 LDP presidential race, braving heavy rains brought on by an approaching typhoon.

Hashimoto, 58, also sought the Osaka people's help in successfully hosting top-level meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in November.

Koizumi, the 53-year-old former posts and telecommunications minister, reiterated the need to privatize the nation's postal and telecommunications operations to reduce reliance on bureaucrats.

The two LDP presidential candidates later traveled to Nagoya to sell their policies to a crowd of about 700 LDP supporters.

Incumbent president Yohei Kono, who is also foreign minister, said last month he would not seek a second two-year term after Hashimoto secured the support of many party members.

Survey Shows 'Overwhelming Support' for Hashimoto

OW1709121295 Tokyo KYODO in English
0912 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO — International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto enjoys overwhelming support for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presidency from the party's rank and file, a KYODO NEWS SERVICE survey showed Sunday [17 September].

KYODO asked senior officials in the party's 47 prefectural headquarters about the prevailing trend among members over the Sept. 22 LDP presidential election.

All in all Hashimoto can count on almost 90 percent of the votes to be cast by mail until Thursday, whereas chances for his contender, former Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi, look more than slim, according to the KYODO survey.

Hashimoto and Koizumi are contending for 462 votes, with 312 cast by Diet members and 150 aggregated from votes by party members.

A legislator's vote has far more weight than those cast by the approximately 1.5 million ordinary party members.

Some 10,000 rank-and-file votes count for one ordinary party vote, while the 312 LDP Diet members cast one vote each, bringing the total to 462. Ballots will be counted Friday.

Outright support for Hashimoto was voiced by 27 of the 47 prefectural party branches polled, while Koizumi was favored only in Miyagi, Ishikawa, Hyogo and Shimane prefectures.

A total of 42 party branches forecast that their rank and file will support Hashimoto. Of these 22 predicted that the trade minister will gain "overwhelming support," garnering more than 70 percent of the ballots.

Of the four prefectures opting for Koizumi only Miyagi also saw him as the winner in the presidential race. Miyagi Prefecture is the home turf of Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, founder of the LDP's now-defunct Mitsuzuka faction, to which Koizumi once belonged.

A variety of reasons were given for preferring Hashimoto to Koizumi. Yamagata expects Hashimoto to give the party better voter appeal, while Nagano dislikes Koizumi for advocating privatization of the postal service and other businesses.

Fukuoka hails Hashimoto's "persuasiveness" in talking the Social Democratic Party into the current ruling

coalition with the LDP, its longtime foe, and New Party Sakigake.

Hyogo, though, rejects Hashimoto for his having once belonged to the faction headed by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, "for which we have considerable criticism."

And despite their preference for Hashimoto, a number of LDP branches give Koizumi credit in a few areas.

"His candidacy is a brilliant achievement in addition to his contribution to policy debate," Tokyo said, while Nagasaki called him "courageous" for challenging heavily favored Hashimoto.

In a related development, the two rivals squared off over policy issues in several television appearances Sunday.

Addressing U.S. demands that Japan shoulder a greater share of the costs of stationing U.S. troops in Japan, Koizumi suggested that the United States reduce its military bases to a more affordable level.

But this provoked strong protests from Hashimoto, who noted that the U.S. military presence plays a major security role in the Asia-Pacific region. "We have to hear Washington's ideas on how it plans to change its strategic concepts," he said.

Kono May Resign From Cabinet Posts

*OW1809092695 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 16 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] Yohei Kono — deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and also president of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] — will resign not only as the deputy prime minister but also as the foreign minister when the new LDP president is elected on 22 September. Such is the prevailing view within the LDP. While preparing for his visit to the United States from 25 September, Kono himself has shown no intention of stepping down from the foreign minister's post. However, even some of his own aides have said that, "should he lose in the election, it would only be natural for him to resign from his cabinet posts." Given this situation, Kono will likely make a final decision after Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama returns from his Middle East tour on 19 September.

Kono offered to "leave the resignation issue to the prime minister" when meeting with Murayama on 29 August, immediately after he withdrew from the race for the LDP presidency. Murayama ordered Kono to attend the UN General Assembly session on 26 September to deliver a speech as Japanese foreign minister. Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is the international trade and industry minister and most likely to be the next LDP president,

wants to carry on under "the current framework of Foreign Minister Kono and Trade Minister Hashimoto" until the Asia Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC) forum in November.

On the contrary, some quarters within the LDP — mainly supporters of Hashimoto — think it is only fair for Kono to resign voluntarily. As a LDP member who formerly served as a cabinet minister put, "He has no choice but to step down."

Under the "new Hashimoto system," a drastic personnel reshuffle of the party leadership is expected. In addition, if the foreign minister's post becomes vacant, it will give more latitude in selection of new personnel. Calls for Kono's resignation also stem from these political designs.

A majority of LDP dietmen who have close ties with the former Miyazawa faction have maintained that Kono should remain in his posts. Seeing these moves within the party, however, some of them are becoming concerned that if he stays, "it may give the impression that he is only clinging on to the cabinet posts." As a result, speculation is now rife that "Kono may announce his resignation on 25 September when the new president is officially elected, or on 30 September when his term of office expires."

Coalition Government Faces Coordination Problems

*95P30155A Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese
3 Sep 95 p 2*

[FBIS Summary] Now that MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is almost certain to become Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] president, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's coalition government faces a growing need to again coordinate major policies among the three ruling parties. The three-party agreement, reached in June 1994, should be reshaped, since statements by Hashimoto in connection with the LDP campaign include "some divergencies" from that agreement.

Leaders of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], which Murayama heads, and the Sakigake Party have pointed out the gaps in policy views. Pro-Hashimoto members of the LDP are demanding incorporation of the party's traditional policies into the coalition agreement. LDP members have charged that the absence of these policies enabled the New Frontier Party to win more votes than the LDP in the July upper house election.

Speculation is mounting that a general election for the lower house will take place in January 1996 at the earliest. With this in mind, the LDP, SDPJ, and

Sakigake want to stress their own policy lines to improve their chances in the election.

Sakigake Secretary General Yukio Hatoyama was the first to question Hashimoto's policies. Under a new policy agreement, the coalition was to handle Tokyo's effort to gain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council cautiously. But Hashimoto had already gone on the offensive and declared "if Japan is to assume a responsible role in the international community, it should be admitted as a permanent member of the council."

Displeased by Hashimoto's statement, Hatoyama criticized him for departing from the coalition agreement. Hashimoto said that he respected the current three-party accord, and maintained that discussing the issue within the LDP has nothing to do with the accord. Included also among Hashimoto's LDP campaign pledges are calls for Japan's active contribution to UN peacekeeping operations, freezing the tax on land, and cutting taxes on assets, all of which are also contentious issues.

Sakigake leader and Finance Minister Masayoshi Take-mura stressed the need to revise the three-party agreement and was supported by the SDPJ leaders on this issue. And some LDP members also want to review the agreement and add some of their own party policies. In the past Foreign Minister Yohei Kono had made too many concessions to the SDPJ, and thus Sakigake and other LDP policies were not included. A lower house Dietman, influential Hashimoto supporter Shunpei Tsukahara, urged the LDP to formulate a proposal for a new three-party agreement.

SDPJ Preparing To Woo Sakigake

In a bid to rejuvenate itself, the SDPJ has created a committee to establish a new party and draft a new party platform. The SDPJ hopes in this way to lay the groundwork for the revision of Japan's peace constitution. Observers have stated that the new platform will call for "development of a new and creative" constitution. The committee includes members from academia and citizens groups.

Ikuro Takagi, a professor at Japan Women's University, who is also a member of the drafting committee, said that some people may interpret the new platform to mean "further development of the constitution," while others may consider it to mean "protection of the constitution." He indicated that the committee would not exclude the possibility of a revision of the current constitution.

Observers said the committee has developed a new idea focused on eliminating the constitutional obstacle to

Sakigake joining forces with the SDPJ in the establishment of the proposed democratic liberal party.

SDPJ Members Discuss Forming New Party

OW1809115495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0022 GMT on 17 September, in its "Sunday Discussion" program, carries a 37-minute roundtable discussion with members of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ) Tsuruo Yamaguchi, Sukio Iwatare, Masanori Goto, and Naoki Nirezaki. NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto moderates the discussion.

At 0022 GMT, Yamamoto begins the discussion by asking Yamaguchi what he thinks of the SDPJ executive committee's move to form a new party in late October. Yamaguchi says that although he agrees with the idea to form a major political force, the executive committee is too hasty and trying to force Prime Minister Murayama to step down. Goto, in response to Yamaguchi's remarks, says: "Now is the time for all SDPJ members who think it is truly necessary to form a new party now to work to that end. Moreover, I am sure that we all agree that we do not have much time left." Agreeing with Yamaguchi, Iwatare points out that thorough discussions on forming the new party should be made among party members. He also says there will be many problems unless the party tries to arrive at a consensus. He adds: "As a matter of fact, some people are already saying that they can no longer go along with the SDPJ." Referring to SDPJ Secretary General Kubo's recent remarks on the prime minister's right to dissolve the Diet, Yamaguchi says that party unity on forming a new party cannot be expected as long as there is discord between the party chairman and the number two man.

Asked if the prime minister and Kubo do not get along well with each other, Goto says: "I do not feel there is a major difference of opinion between the chairman and the secretary general."

On the issue of maintaining the SDPJ's principle of safeguarding the Constitution even under a new party, Goto says it is natural to maintain the spirit of that principle, including fundamental human rights and the doctrine of democratic sovereignty. At the same time, Goto explains the need to revise some articles of the current Constitution and calls for a new party with an ideology of creative development of the spirit of the constitution.

Yamamoto asks Yamaguchi if SDPJ members should become a nucleus of the new party. Yamaguchi again points out that thorough discussions are not being

held among party members on the formation of the new party itself. Iwatare says party members are not enthusiastic about the SDPJ executive committee's plan for formation of the new party.

The discussion ends at 0059 GMT.

Local SDP Leaders Want New Party in Oct

OW1709024195 Tokyo KYODO in English
0235 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO — Nearly half of provincial leaders of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Social Democratic Party [SDP] are in favor of forming a new party in late October as planned, a national daily reported in a survey report published Sunday [17 September].

According to the survey by the ASAHI SHIMBUN, 39 of the 47 secretaries general at SDP local chapters said they would endorse a new party.

Twenty-two secretaries general were in favor of establishing the new party by Nov. 2 virtually in line with the plan of the party's policy-making central executive committee. The date marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the SDP.

According to the survey, 11 secretaries general favor the establishment of a new party by the year-end, the ASAHI said.

The party hopes to launch a new party before the next general election, which could come late this year or early next year, so that SDP members can run under a new party's flag.

Designed to bolster the floundering popularity of the SDP by forming a new party with SDP members as its nucleus, the scheme will be discussed at an extraordinary party convention Sept. 21.

Asked who should head the new party, 13 secretaries general favored former Hokkaido Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi, followed by eight who picked House of Representatives speaker Takako Doi and five who endorsed Murayama, the incumbent SDP chairman.

Yokomichi is considered to be one of the "democratic liberals," with whom the SDP is planning to form a new party.

The new party also aims to compete with the largest component in the current coalition and the largest political party — the Liberal Democratic Party — as well as the leading opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

Tokyo Eyeing Closer Control of Religious Groups

OW1709131295 Tokyo KYODO in English
1222 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO — A draft of the revised legislation on religious corporations gives the supervising authorities the right to directly investigate "questionable" activities that deviate from genuine religious activities.

The Education Ministry and the Cultural Agency have been considering revising the current 1951 law on religious corporations amid drastic social changes and in the wake of crimes ascribed to the Aum Shinrikyo religious cult, including the March sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system.

According to a copy of the draft obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE Sunday [17 September], it also obliges religious corporations to disclose financial reports if members of the groups or concerned parties so request.

Religious corporations will be asked to report their property lists, income and expenditure accounts, lists of executives and reports on their business operations each fiscal year to the supervising authorities.

Education Ministry sources said the new rules do not violate the freedom of religion guaranteed by the current constitution as financial information is not related to doctrine or religious activities.

Under the draft, however, investigations into "questionable" activities at religious organizations must have the approval of the Education Ministry's Council on Religious Organizations.

Local prefectural governments currently supervise the nation's 184,000 religious corporations, but the draft stipulates that if a religious corporation is active in more than one prefecture, the Education Minister should take over its supervision.

The Education Ministry and the Cultural Agency are in the last stages of finalizing a government draft of the revised law, sources close to the two government bodies said.

They said they drew up the draft on the basis of discussions by the panel on religious corporations.

Mitsubishi To Enter Joint Venture in India

OW1709035395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0110 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 17 KYODO — Mitsubishi Motors Corp. will supply Hindustan Motors

Ltd., India's biggest automaker, with the technology to produce subcompact cars, a business daily reported Sunday [17 September].

The two companies are likely to sign an agreement by the end of the year, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said.

Mitsubishi will turn out 5,000 units of the 1500 cc Lancer model in 1997 and within a few years boost its annual output to 30,000, the newspaper said.

Hindustan currently makes the long-selling Ambassador car series. In addition, it has decided to produce the 2000 cc Astra car in a joint venture with Adam Opel AG, the European subsidiary of General Motors Corp. of the United States.

Mitsubishi's move follows a recent decision by Honda Motor Co. to set up a joint venture in India with a local business group to manufacture cars with engine displacements of 1300 to 1500 cc starting in 1997.

India's annual car sales are projected to increase to 500,000 to 600,000 vehicles in the year 2000 from an estimated 350,000 in 1995.

The Indian market's high growth potential has prompted major European, U.S. and South Korean carmakers to link up with local concerns to begin production. Among the makers are Mercedes-benz AG of Germany, Automobiles Peugeot SA of France, Ford Motor Co. of the U.S. and Daewoo Motor Co. of South Korea.

North Korea

Daily Urges 'New Peace Mechanism' With U.S.

SK1609102795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1007 GMT 16 Sep 95

["U.S. Must Make Decision on Establishment of New Peace Mechanism" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — A new peace mechanism should be established in order to relax military confrontation between the DPRK and the United States and ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula at present, stresses NODONG SINMUN in an article today.

The United States bears the main responsibility for ensuring peace and security on the Korean Peninsula as it has deployed its huge troops in South Korea and takes hold of the military prerogative there, the author of the article says and continues:

Establishment of a new peace mechanism between the DPRK and U.S. replacing the obsolete armistice system is a fundamental method for easing tension and ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Now, the obsolete armistice system can neither be revitalized nor restored with any "prescription".

It is as clear as noonday that, as long as this nominal armistice system remains intact on the Korean peninsula where huge armed forces stand against each other with the Military Demarcation Line in between and war danger is hovering constantly, it is impossible to prevent any accidental event from occurring and to maintain the present state of armistice as well as peace.

The U.S. side's resolution adopted at the 30th U.N. General Assembly, too, stipulates that negotiations for a new step to replace the armistice agreement should be held and, when an appropriate measure is taken, the "U.N. Command" be abrogated.

From the point of present time, the United States has neither reason nor justification to turn a face from or oppose the matter of setting up legal and institutional mechanisms for ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula.

If the United States is truly interested in ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula, it must not evade its responsibility, but accede to the DPRK's proposal and come out to negotiation.

NDFSK Denounces U.S. Forces' 'Crimes' in South

SK1609134595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1048 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — The Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) released a statement on September 8 denouncing the crimes committed by U.S. imperialist aggression forces for 50 years after they occupied South Korea, Seoul-based Radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

Since they landed in South Korea as "liberator" after the liberation of Korea, the U.S. troops have trampled down everything national, revealing the aggressive, predatory and cruel nature of Yankees, who exterminated the natives, the statement said, and went on:

Their brutal massacres began with the slaughter of Inchon port workers in cold blood on September 8, 1945.

The purpose of their South Korean occupation was fully disclosed by their murder of 70,000 people on Cheju Island, one third of its population, on the order of the then-U.S. military governor to "secure the island at the cost of all the islanders' lives."

The Kwangju bloodbath in May 1980 was a horrible atrocity which was planned by the U.S. Forces Command in South Korea and committed by colonial mercenaries.

U.S. troops present in South Korea, styling themselves as occupation forces, make no scruple of committing such crimes as murder, rape, robbery and outrages in broad daylight.

It is their usual practice that they shoot to death wild vegetable-picking girl as if she were a pheasant, let a military dog bite a weeding peasant and drive a car over a walking boy.

"In the animal-like way" is their order of action and slogan.

They gang-rape girls before having their hairs cut and their heads shaved and taking pictures of their naked bodies.

Since the appearance of the Kim Yong-sam "civilian" regime, the GIs' crimes have doubled those in the military dictatorial regimes, or an annual average of 3,500 cases, a record figure ever in history.

Their barbarities are endangered by the colonial nature of South Korean society. The U.S. troops present in South Korea are outside the jurisdiction of the South Korean "government" and they feel no restriction in their action.

In the miserable society of South Korea under the U.S. military occupation, the people are maltreated by Yankees as the cart is put before the horse and the guilty party files the suit first.

As long as the U.S. forces remain in South Korea, the eradication of their crimes cannot be expected. The hateful U.S. troops must promptly stop sanguinary crimes and quit this land.

Delegates Return From KEDO Talks in Malaysia

*SK1709033895 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0104 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A DPRK working-level delegation returned home on 16 September by plane after participating in the negotiations to conclude an agreement on the provision of light-water reactors between the DPRK and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO] led by the United States of America which were held in Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital, under the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement of October 21, 1994, and the DPRK-U.S. joint press statement of June 13, 1995.

Following the negotiations, the two sides held expert-level discussions for drafting the terms of the agreement on the provision of light-water reactors in Kuala Lumpur from 13 to 15 September.

Daily Scores South Attitude on Nuclear Issue

*SK1809054795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0502 GMT 18 Sep 95*

["Indiscreet, Ridiculous Behavior" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 18 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets, at a recent meeting in Thailand for preparation of a Eurasian summit slated for next year, proposed that "joint action" over the "nuclear issue" of the DPRK be included in the political agenda of the summit.

NODONG SINMUN today says this shows the Kim Yong-sam group still have the bad habit and sinister intention of doing harm to fellow countrymen over the fictitious "nuclear issue" of the DPRK.

The news analyst says:

On the Korean peninsula, nuclear threat is not posed by the North, which has no nuclear arms. The threat comes from the South, where more than 1,000 nuclear weapons are deployed and nuclear war exercises are staged in succession.

The puppets beg for "protection by U.S. nuclear umbrella" and grow their own "nuclear toadstool" behind the facade, turning their back on the nation's demand for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea.

If they are concerned about the fate of the nation and wish the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, they should not make a fuss about the fictitious "nuclear issue of North Korea" but should demand the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases from South Korea.

They should dismantle their heavy-water reactor and multi-purpose research reactor and give up the development of a fast breeder reactor in answer to the North's efforts for the replacement of the graphite moderated reactor program with light-water reactor technology, which the North proposed for the purpose of transparency of its nuclear activities.

Far from doing and saying what they have to, they are making much ado about "nuclear issue of North Korea." This is an attempt to reverse black and white and mislead public opinion so that their own nuclear problem may be excluded from debate and their nuclear arms development be justified.

Radio Denounces ROK 15 Sep Naval Exercises

*SK1709013995 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
2124 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Seoul radio, the puppet clique conducted mobile exercise of the puppet navy in the East Sea of Korea [Sea of Japan] on 15 September. During the commotion of fire game with frigates and submarines deployed for actual war, the puppet clique conducted anti-aircraft and anti-fleet shooting and fired guided missiles in the war frenzy. The puppet clique is constantly conducting provocative war exercise behind the scenes while talking outwardly about the reunification of the country.

South Moves in DMZ Get on 'Nerves' of North

*SK1709092495 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0825 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 17 (KCNA) — Some 250 bandits of the South Korean puppet army fully armed with machine guns and automatic rifles on September 15 held combat positions in the Demilitarized Zone in the east sector of the front and took offensive postures, seriously getting on the nerves of the North side, according to military sources.

Scores of puppet army bandits who had taken positions at MP [military police] posts in the DMZ in the west sector of the front threatened People's Army soldiers on their routine guard duty.

The South Korean puppets illegally introduced more than 30 large military vehicles into the DMZ in the central sector of the front.

On the same day, the South Korean puppet clique kicked up a war fever, firing anti-air, anti-warship shells and launching guided missiles in the Korean East Sea.

This is part of the premeditated moves of the Kim Yong-sam group to bring the inter-Korean relations to an extreme pitch of confrontation.

CPRF Denounces South Plans for Refugee Influx

*SK1709000095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1532 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — A spokesman for the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) issued a statement today, bitterly denouncing the South Korean puppets' anti-DPRK campaign following flood damage in the North as an anti-national crime to aggravate inter-Korean relations and gravely hurt the nation's desire for reunification and as a flagrant challenge to humanitarianism.

The statement says:

On Sept. 13, the South Korean puppets announced that they were "examining a plan to build refugee camps on eastern and western coasts because flood victims may escape from the North by sea." They added that they took into account the fact that just before the unification of Germany, large-scale camps were built for those who escaped from East Germany.

While talking about "massive escape," "construction of refugee camps" and "allround measure for refugees" in the wake of floods in the North, the Kim Yong-sam group wish that a "political problem" could happen in the North. This clearly shows they are obsessed with anti-communist ideas and the dream of "absorbing the North."

Organisations under the United Nations and many countries are assisting the North to heal the flood damage. At this time, the South Korean authorities are talking about "escape of refugees" and "construction of refugee camps" and getting on the nerves of fellow countrymen who suffered from a disaster. This shows that they have not drawn a lesson from the anti-ethical, anti-national crime they committed against the North in misfortune last year, still less made an apology.

After the ceasefire, the Korean people surmounted manifold difficulties and rose up from the war debris in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work. They are defending and exalting Korean-style socialism centred on the masses in the same spirit and courage, in face of the challenges from the imperialist reactionaries. They are now healing the flood damage in the same faith.

The Kim Yong-sam group wish for "escape" of these people and "problem" in the North. This is an unpardonable insult and slander to the Korean people, who are united around their party and leader with a single heart. This is as good as kicking against the pricks.

The Kim Yong-sam group are on the verge of destruction, isolated and rejected at home and abroad for their heinous crime against the entire nation, the big defeat in the "local autonomous body elections," the repeated setbacks in the home and foreign policies and the successive extra-large accidents. They are not in a position to build "refugee camps." They had better seek such shelter as the Paekdam Temple where they would hide themselves when ousted from Chongwadae [presidential offices].

The Korean people, who make their way through manifold difficulties full of optimism and confidence in their just cause, closely united around respected General Kim Chong-il, the destiny of the nation and

the lodestar of national reunification, will firmly defend their socialist country and motherland come what may and reunify the country independently and peacefully, true to the behests of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the great father of the nation.

South Visit by Japan's Defense Chief Criticized

*SK1709092895 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0831 GMT 17 Sep 95*

["Dangerous Trip for Reinvasion" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 17 (KCNA) — Seishiro Eto, general director of the Japanese Defense Agency, has reportedly planned to fly to South Korea on September 22 and hold a confab with the brasshats of the puppet army about "nuclear issue" of the DPRK and a proposal for military exchange and cooperation between Japan and South Korea.

NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined commentary today says:

His tour to South Korea is mainly aimed at putting into effect Japan's strategy to invade Korea. His intended discussion on the nuclear issue of the DPRK in South Korea is a behaviour getting on our nerves.

Recently a consensus on making efforts to conclude an LWR agreement in the earliest possible date was reached between the DPRK and the KEDO. This has more clearly proved the DPRK's transparency in the nuclear matter, and accordingly, it has been brought to light that the "nuclear suspicion" of the DPRK is an invention to isolate and stifle the DPRK.

The Japanese reactionary ruling circles, however, continue to make an issue of the fictitious "nuclear suspicion" of the DPRK, not willing to correct their wrong way of thinking. They try to make the DPRK a "nuclear criminal" at any cost with the ambition to justify their moves for military power and nuclear armament and anti-DPRK policy and invent a pretext for reinvasion.

They are openly revealing their intention to dispatch "self-defence forces" to a Korean war and participate in the war in the "contingency" on the Korean Peninsula. They are going to open the way of legally dispatching their huge Armed Forces to South Korea on the pretext of "military cooperation" and "joint countermeasure" with the South Korean puppets.

It is no doubt that the South Korean tour of the general director of the Japanese Defense Agency will be part of this scheme.

The Japanese reactionaries have nothing to get in their policy of aggression on Korea. They will be

well advised to act with discretion, clearly seeing the situation.

Commentary Urges South To Release Pak Yong-kil

*SK1609060995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0434 GMT 16 Sep 95*

["Wicked Repressive Act of Anti-Reunification Element" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — Pak Yong-kil, a woman above 70, now under detention in Seoul prison is in a very critical condition due to the deterioration of her heart disease which may cause a heart failure. In spite of it, the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique continues to put her behind bars, forcing all manner of persecution and repression upon her, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today, criticising it as a brutal behaviour which can be committed only by an immoral person who has not an iota of elementary conscience and human morality.

The news analyst continues:

The Kim Yong-sam group's imprisonment of the woman Pak Yong-kil, who risked herself to visit the northern half of Korea for national reunification can not be construed otherwise than an intentional murderous act to kill her, who is praised by the entire fellow countrymen as a "grandmother of reunification" hewing out the spring for reunification in the 90s, as they did the old-aged Rev. Mun Ik-hwan by imprisoning him with his disease getting for the worse.

The Kim Yong-sam group's ruthless repressive act against the woman shows that the "reconciliation," "dialogue" and "improvement of relations" with the North cried by them are no more than a mere lip service.

After all, it is an open challenge and provocation to the entire fellow countrymen desirous of national reunification as well as a total rejection to national reunification.

The Kim Yong-sam group must immediately release Pak Yong-kil loved by the country and the nation. If the puppets persistently reduce the woman to a victim of the anti-reunification fascist evil law ignoring the demand of the nation and human conscience, they will be held wholly responsible for the consequences arising therefrom and pay a thousand-fold price for their indelible crime.

South Groups Seek Kwangju 'Massacre' Lawsuit

SK1409102195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1015 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 14 (KCNA) — South Korean organisations urged an enactment of a special law on punishment of prime movers of the May 18 massacre on September 11, a Seoul-based radio reported.

Members of dissident organisations including the National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification held a demonstration in front of the puppet National Assembly hall and demanded that the National Assembly enact a special law to punish those prime movers of the Kwangju massacre irrespective of the period of arraignment and an ad hoc organisation be formed for the probe into the truth.

The Lawyers' Council for Democratic Society in a statement denounced the puppet clique for making a decision not to bring a lawsuit against the May 18 murderers and demanded that the "National Assembly" clearly know about the opposition of the people to the decision.

The organisation also urged that the "National Assembly" promptly examine draft special laws submitted by the National Professors Council for Democracy and the Citizens' Solidarity Organisation for Participation in Democratic Society and Human Rights.

The "civilian government" and the "National Assembly" will face a deserved judgement if the demands of the people are not met even at the session of the "National Assembly," the organisation warned.

UN Distributes Foreign Ministry Memo on Japan

SK1609104495 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1019 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — The August 13 memorandum of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea denouncing Japan for trying to beautify and evade her past crimes against the Korean people up to date when 50 years have passed since the liberation of Korea was distributed as an official document (No. A/50/736) of the 50th U.N. General Assembly session.

Japanese Arms Buildup, 'Aggression' Denounced

SK1609082995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0500 GMT 16 Sep 95

["Undisguised Moves for Overseas Aggression" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today denounces the Japanese reactionaries for recently stepping up arms buildup, making ill-boding military movements.

Of late, the general director of the Japanese Defence Agency clamoured about the promotion of modernisation of "Self-Defence Forces" [SDF]. The Japanese Government decided to set up a peace-keeping office with the purpose to train soldiers of the "SDF" who will be dispatched overseas. On August 28 it decided to send "SDF" to the Golan Heights in February next year.

The news analyst says:

The so-called "threat" to Japan disappeared after the end of the Cold War. Nevertheless, the Japanese reactionaries are giving spurs to arms buildup, motivated by their wild ambition to conquer Asia by force of arms and, furthermore, expand their sphere of domination to a worldwide scale.

To this end, they are scheming to provide lawful conditions for the Armed Forces of Japan to perfect preparations to invade any regions of the world and for the "SDF" to operate in any region.

Japan is zealous in dispatching "SDF" to "peace-keeping operations." It is not for peace. It is aimed at making overseas dispatch of "SDF" a fait accompli and thus sending its aggression forces to any regions overseas as they wish on the pretext of "rescue of the overseas Japanese" or "protection of property of the overseas Japanese" to realise their wild ambition for aggression.

The more undisguised moves of overseas aggression by the Japanese reactionaries are gravely threatening peace and security of the world.

Their moves will result only in precipitating their destruction. They must act with discretion, clearly mindful of this.

Russian Criticized for Detaining Workers

SK1609121595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1102 GMT 16 Sep 95

["Health Ministry Spokesman on Rude Act of Russian Side" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — A spokesman of the Ministry of Public

Health of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement today accusing the Russian side of detaining Korean workers on the basis of false information and publishing false reports.

The statement says:

The people in the DPRK live long in good health under the superior health system based on preventive medicine.

Epidemic diseases are sweeping different parts of the world, but in the DPRK working people are constantly promoting their health and devotedly building socialism, free from any epidemic disease.

A few days ago, the chairman of the Russian Maritime Regional Emergency Committee announced that Russia would block the travel of passengers and transport of freight from Korea and prohibit the exchange of tourists, quoting available sources as saying that an unidentified epidemic disease broke out in the border area between Korea and the maritime region of Russia. Mass media of Russia and some other countries published the false information.

The Russian side detained a new detachment of Korean workers on their way to the Far Eastern area and rudely checked up their health, though they had quarantine certificates.

The result of the medical check-up showed there was no symptom of epidemic disease. The Russian medical workers admitted this fact.

With no scientific information did the Russian side detain Korean workers and spread a false report, ignoring elementary international usage. This was a clumsy drama staged by those who want to drive a wedge into the relations between Korea and Russia and who dislike economic cooperation between them.

The Russian side must punish those responsible for the incident and act with discretion lest such things should recur.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Air Raids on Serbs

*SK1709033395 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
0107 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry was interviewed by KCNA on 16 September in connection with NATO's recent air raids on Bosnian Serbs.

He said:

According to foreign media reports, NATO has conducted large-scale air raids on Bosnian Serbs several

times since 30 August, leaving many people dead or wounded.

It is very regrettable that such bloodshed took place at a time when a new prospect for a peaceful solution to the Bosnia-Herzegovina dispute was being opened thanks to the efforts of countries concerned.

We insist that all international disputes including the Bosnia-Herzegovina dispute should be resolved through dialogue and negotiations. All military actions, including NATO's air raids, should be completely stopped.

Hwang Chang-yop Meets German, Kuwaiti Groups

*SK1309224195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1522 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 13 (KCNA) — Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, today met and had a talk with the visiting delegation of the Christian Social Union members of the Federal Parliament of Germany led by Christian Schmit, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Federal Parliament of Germany and chairman of the Foreign and Defense Policy Committee of the parliamentary group of the Christian Social Union.

Hwang Chang-yop also met and had a talk with the visiting delegation of the Confederation of Kuwaiti Workers led by its Secretary General Rashed al Azmy [spelling of name as received].

Hwang Chang-yop Meets PRC, Russian Unionists

*SK1409224595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1539 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 14 (KCNA) — Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Hwang Chang-yop today met and had friendly talks respectively with a delegation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions led by its Vice-President Teng Yilong, a delegation of the General Confederation of Trade Unions of the Commonwealth of Independent States led by its Vice-President N.D. Podshibiakina and a delegation of the Independent Trade Unions of Russia led by its Secretary T.L. Frolova [spelling of names as received].

Officials Talk With German Party Delegation

*SK1409224795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1537 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 14 (KCNA) — Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim

Yong-nam met and had a talk with the visiting delegation of the Christian Social Union members of the Federal Parliament of Germany led by Christian Schmit, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Federal Parliament of Germany and chairman of the Foreign and Defense Policy Committee of the parliamentary group of the Christian Social Union, on Thursday [14 September].

Present there were officials concerned and Wilhelm Strohe, interim head of the interest section for Germany in Pyongyang.

Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, also met and had a talk with the German delegation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on the same day.

Yi Chong-ok Meets German Delegation

*SK1609001595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2205 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 15 (KCNA) — Vice-president Yi Chong-ok met and had a friendly talk at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today with the visiting delegation of the Christian Social Union members of the federal parliament of Germany led by Christian Schmit, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the federal parliament of Germany and chairman of the Foreign and Defense Policy Committee of the parliamentary group of the Christian Social Union.

Yim Sun-pil, vice-director of a department of the C.C. [Central Committee] of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Wilhelm Strohe, interim head of the Interest Section for Germany in Pyongyang, were present there.

Kim Yong-nam, Mexican Minister Exchange Messages

*SK1409224495 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1541 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 14 (KCNA) — Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria Trevino exchanged messages of greetings on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries will further strengthen and develop and sincerely wished him greater success in his responsible work.

Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria Trevino hoped that the relations between the two countries will continue

to expand in accordance with the interests of the two peoples.

Mexican Trade Union Hangs Kim Il-song Portrait

*SK1409103495 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1032 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 14 (KCNA) — A portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-song was placed at the Hall of the National Executive Committee of the Lazaro Cardenas Trade Union Front, Mexico, on September 4 with due ceremony on the threshold of the 47th anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

After the portrait of President Kim Il-song was placed on the platform of the hall, the participants in the ceremony observed a moment's silence in his memory.

Addressing the ceremony, secretary general of the National Executive Committee Heron Rosales Zamorano said they had the great honor of having the portrait of respected Comrade Kim Il-song, the outstanding leader of the world labor movement, placed at the hall.

He further said:

"We envy Korean-style socialism.

"Because the DPRK founded by Comrade Kim Il-song is a genuine state of the people which serves the masses of the people, guided by the *chuche* idea.

"Indeed, he performed great feats. His undying feats will remain shining for all ages.

"We will keep the portrait of tender-hearted Comrade Kim Il-song with utmost care.

"He will always live in our hearts."

Retired Russian General Praises Kim Il-song

*SK1409105495 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1047 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 14 (KCNA) — A retired general, Nikolay Ryashenko, who is a hero of the former Soviet Union, told KCNA that the idea and revolutionary feats of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will be immortal.

He told that what most impressed him during his Korean visit is the fact that the Korean people remain faithful to Comrade Kim Il-song with intense loyalty and obligation.

He said:

"Comrade Kim Il-song did a lot of things for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the world revolution.

"He was the outstanding leader of the Korean people and the world people and a great activist of the world revolution.

"He turned Korea into a powerful socialist country.

"I will always keep him in my memory. I am convinced that the rising generation will remain loyal to him, armed with his revolutionary idea."

Peruvian Women Mayors Visit Pyongyang

Group Honors Kim Il-song

*SK1409062895 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0549 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 14 (KCNA) — A diploma of honorary citizenship, medals and a key of Peru were awarded to the great leader President Kim Il-song on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the foundation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They are the diploma of honorary citizenship of Sepahua Province in Atalaya City, Ucayali Region, Peru, the medal of the National Association of Women Mayors of Peru and the medal and key of Atalaya City, Ucayali Region. They were handed to an official concerned by America Armas Garcia, vice-chairperson of the National Association of Women Mayors of Peru now on a visit to Korea.

Delegate Hails Friendly Ties

*SK1509054095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0439 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 15 (KCNA) — Pyongyangites welcomed the Korean visit of the delegation of the National Association of Women Mayors of Peru on Thursday [14 September].

Sin An-pang, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang municipal administrative and economic committee, in his welcome speech at the meeting said that the Korean people warmly congratulate the Peruvian people on their achievements in the building of a new society.

Both the Korean and Peruvian peoples have always maintained friendly relations as they have common aspirations and desires for sovereignty, independence, social progress and the building of a new society, he added.

Head of the delegation America Armas Garcia said that the Peruvian people deeply respect and revere the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who made extraordinary contributions to the development of friendly relations between the two countries and to the human cause of independence, and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, an outstanding leader of the world revolution of the 21st

century, and cherish particular friendly feelings toward the Korean people.

We saw at first hand the heroic struggle of the Korean people who, true to the behests of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, are making a dynamic advance along the socialist road of their own choice with the might of the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, not wavering under any political and economic blockade of the imperialists, the head of the delegation said, adding:

This clearly proves that the argument of the imperialists and the international reactionaries for the collapse of socialism is a sheer lie and socialism remains as a science.

She voiced full support to the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and the proposal for reunification through confederacy which were advanced by the great president.

The chuche idea founded by the great Comrade Kim Il-song, the father of the Korean people, will be immortal, she stressed.

She sincerely wished the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

'Home-Visiting' Students in Japan Arrive

Arrive in Wonsan 14 Sep

*SK1609002795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2213 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 15 (KCNA) — Home-visiting groups of Korean students in Japan and the 245th short term home-visiting group of Koreans in Japan arrived in Wonsan by the ship "Mangyongbong-92" on Thursday [14 September] to visit the socialist homeland.

Visit Kim Il-song Statue

*SK1609070495 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0426 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — Home-visiting groups of Korean students in Japan on September 14 called at the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill to pay homage to him.

The members of the home-visiting groups laid a floral basket and flowers and made bows before the statue with unbounded respects for the tender-hearted fatherly leader who showed deep love and solicitude for national education of the children of Korean residents in Japan.

Written in the ribbon hanging down from the floral basket were letters reading "The great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song is always with us."

Reportage on 17th Chongnyon Congress in Tokyo

Session Closes 16 Sep

*SK1609082195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0441 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 17th Congress of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), which opened in Tokyo on Sept. 13, closed today [16 September] after going through all its schedule successfully.

Many delegates made speeches on the report on the work of the Chongnyon Central Committee at the second-day session.

The speakers said that in hearty response to "on developing the movement of Koreans in Japan onto a new higher stage," the historic letter sent by the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il to Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Chongnyon, they would make a new turn in strengthening the driving force of the movement of Koreans in Japan and enhancing its role in keeping with the changed situation.

Wife of the former Prime Minister, Mutsuko Miki, who is general secretary of the national forum for the promotion of normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations, Akira Iwai, chairman of the Japanese committee for support to the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea, and many other Japanese personages made speeches at the congress.

Warmly congratulating the 17th Chongnyon Congress, they said they would make all their efforts for reunification of Korea, protection of democratic national rights of Koreans in Japan, friendship between the two peoples and early realisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK.

The report on the work of the Chongnyon Central Committee was unanimously adopted as a decision of the congress.

At the congress Han Tok-su was elected chairman, Yi Chin-kyu first vice-chairman, Ho Chong-man chief vice-chairman, Pak Chu-no, So Man-sol, Kwon Sun-hui, Choe Pyong-cho, O Hyong-chin, Kim Su-sik, Pae Pyong-tu and O Su-chin vice-chairmen and Yi Ki-sok general director of the Secretariat.

The members of the Chongnyon Central Committee and Auditing Committee were also elected at the congress.

A letter to Marshal Kim Chong-il was read out at the congress.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Chief Vice-Chairman Ho Chong-man called on all the delegates to develop the movement of Koreans in Japan onto a new higher stage, by turning out in single-hearted unity to implement the decision of the congress under the great idea and leadership of respected General Kim Chong-il.

Participants Write to Kim Chong-il

*SK1609134195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1040 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — The great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il received a letter from the participants in the 17th Congress of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on Friday.

The letter says:

The 17th Chongnyon Congress successfully closed as a congress of victory and unity of Chongnyon officials and Koreans in Japan to unfailingly remain faithful to the great General Kim Chong-il, holding the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song in high esteem for all ages and as a historic congress which set a new epochal milestone in the Korean movement in Japan.

At the congress Chongnyon summed up the vigorous struggle of the last three years, discussed and decided on the line of its activity to develop the Korean movement in Japan onto a new high stage, upholding the historic letter of respected General Kim Chong-il and newly amended the programme of Chongnyon in keeping with the changed environment.

Referring to the tasks of Chongnyon, the letter expresses determination to add lustre to the honour of being eternal companions of the chuche cause under the banner of the immortal chuche idea, "believing in the people as in heaven" and love for the country and the nation, holding the fatherly leader in high esteem for all ages.

The letter goes on:

Chongnyon will train the third and fourth generations as promising masters of the patriotic cause and make the fifth and sixth generations firmly succeed to the generation of loyalty and the generation of patriotism.

It will carry on its duty creditably in achieving national reunification by means of confederacy in the 90s and make distinguishing contributions to the prosperity of our country and our homeland.

In order to develop the Korean movement in Japan onto a new higher stage, Chongnyon will consolidate its organisation as the ranks of singlehearted unity thoroughly applying the idea and guidance of the respected general and train its officials as patriotic fighters infinitely loyal to the general and faithful servants of the Korean compatriots.

The letter wishes Marshal Kim Chong-il a long life in good health.

Party, Government Official Paek Pom-su Dies

*SK1609135595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1054 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — Paek Pom-su, member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, member of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK, chief secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the WPK and chairman of the Provincial People's Committee, died from a long illness at the age of 72 on September 15, 1995.

An obituary on his death was published on September 15 in the name of the WPK Central Committee and the DPRK Central People's Committee.

According to it, he, who was born in an alien land during the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule, grew to be a competent party official in the bosom of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and devotedly struggled for the strengthening and development of the party and for socialist construction.

He, who began manual labor in his early years, waged an active struggle to implement the lines and policies of our party, working at responsible posts of the local and central party organisations, state organs and political bodies of Armed Forces under the deep trust and solicitude of the party and the leader.

Assuming the post of the chief secretary of the provincial party committee and chairman of the Provincial People's Committee for years, he made energetic efforts to consolidate the party ranks organisationally and ideologically, unite the people around the party and strengthen the people's power.

Letter Relay Marks 50th WPK Anniversary

*SK1509052595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0433 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 15 (KCNA) — Relay groups carrying letters of loyalty addressed to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to mark the 50th anniversary of the Workers' Party of

Korea [WPK] have started for Pyongyang from different parts of the country.

On September 12 and 13, relay groups of officials of central state organs, peoples of Yanggang Province, officers and men of the Korean People's Army (KPA), public security officers and railway workers started separately from Mangyongdae that is the cradle of revolution, the Mt. Paektu secret camp, the heroic height 1,211, Kosong in Kangwon Province and other places.

Prior to the start, meetings took place to send them off.

Read at the meetings were letters of loyalty containing the firm pledge of the party members, the KPA soldiers and the working people to effect a fresh upswing in all domains of the revolution and construction with the great honour of having Comrade Kim Chong-il in the van of the historical struggle for accomplishing the cause of chuche-based party building and the revolutionary cause which were pioneered and guided by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The relay groups are running toward Pyongyang, warmly welcomed and farewelled by soldiers, working people, youths and school children in revolutionary battle sites and historical sites, which are associated with immortal feats of President Kim Il-song, and in socialist construction sites, etc.

Article Outlines 'Benevolent' Socialist Politics

*SK1609103995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1015 GMT 16 Sep 95*

["Essence of Socialist Politics Is Politics of Love and Trust, Benevolent Politics" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today carries an article entitled "Scientific Exposition of Essence of Socialist Politics" contributed by Dr. Kim Taek-kyu.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il clarified in his famous work "Socialism Is a Science" that the benevolent politics, politics of love for and trust in the people, is the essence of socialist politics, the article stresses.

It quotes Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Love and trust constitute the essence of politics in socialist society, where the masses of the people have been transformed from objects of politics to the masters of politics. We call the politics of love and trust benevolent politics."

The politics of love and trust is genuine politics for the people which regards the popular masses as most valu-

able and powerful beings and subordinates everything to realising their demand for independence and interests.

This politics is proper only to socialist society. This society where comradely unity and cooperation and the relationship of love and trust are embodied in all spheres of social life, demands that administration over state and society is transformed into politics of love for and trust in the people.

In socialist society the working-class party is the supreme political organization and the government is the most comprehensive political organization.

In this society the working-class party takes it as its main mission to be responsible for the destiny of the masses and guide them, and the socialist power is obliged to provide them with independent and creative life and defend them.

This shows that in socialist society the politics of the working-class party and state should be the politics of love and trust, benevolent politics.

Socialist politics is, in essence, the politics of love and trust. But this does not mean that when the socialist system is established, the benevolent politics is shaped of its own accord.

In order to realize genuinely benevolent politics in socialist society, a political leader who unfailingly loves the people must come forward.

In Korea the politics of love and trust, benevolent politics has successfully been brought into practice under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

The brilliant tradition of benevolent politics established by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is creditably being carried forward by respected Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrade Kim Chong-il's benevolent politics is politics of extensive love and trust, all-embracing politics; he loves and trusts people from all areas of society, without discrimination. And it is politics of invariable love and trust; he is responsible for everyone's socio-political integrity and guides this.

His political creed run through with unquestioned trust and warm love for the people is intensively reflected in the party's slogan "We serve the people!"

Writer Praises 'Benevolent' Politics of North

SK1609105695 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — A retired editorial writer of South Korea, O Hyok-nyon, wrote an article titled "I See True Society

Based on Love for the People," Seoul-based Radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

Recalling that there were the collapse of the Sampoong Department Store in Seoul and other horrible accidents recently in the South of the Korean peninsula and, one month later, some areas of the North including Sinuiju were hit by floods biggest ever in the history of the nation, the article said the disasters offered a glimpse of the politics pursued by the two different societies.

The North and the South showed their political characteristics in contrast in the rescue work, the article said, and continued:

The Sampoong collapse, which claimed many lives, was illustrative of the anti-social, anti-ethic nature of South Korea's politics ignoring the people's lives.

It is South Korean society where there are people, but their lives are ignored by politics.

The collapse mirrors South Korea's politics, which makes light of the people and their lives.

In the North, however, great efforts have been made to rescue the flood victims on an emergency order of Supreme Commander Kim Chong-il.

He issued an order to rescue all the people, saying that he did not want to hear about even a loss of life.

On his order, the army was put in the state of emergency and state measures were taken in the North to rescue the people.

In the flood-afflicted areas fourteen pregnant women were rescued and gave an easy birth to babies, increasing the population. Like this, Supreme Commander Kim Chong-il's politics increased the population even in the calamity.

Having such a leader who loves the people is the greatest fortune.

The leader Kim Chong-il regards the people as heaven and the most valuable treasure in the world. Love for the people is the basis of his idea and politics. He bases his people-centred philosophy and politics on the love for the people.

Benevolent politics of love and trust, which the world people praise as people-loving politics of Kim Chong-il style, is also based on the philosophy based on the love for the people.

Suffering from the recent disaster, the people of the North have been united more closely and their loyalty and filial duty have become more intense. The people-loving politics has produced a gigantic strength.

Politics pursued by supreme commander Kim Chong-il has been followed by all the people.

I am convinced that the North is a genuine society based on people-loving politics, the society by which our people should be embraced.

We, the South Korean people, who do not know a true sense of genuine love and people-loving politics, are longing for his people-loving politics.

More People Volunteer To Work in Rural Areas **SK1809052295**

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports by Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean and Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean on North Korean people who have volunteered to work in rural areas or coal mines.

At 1100 GMT on 10 September, Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean carries a report of less than one minute on an automobile parts plant worker who has volunteered to work at a coal mine. The report says: "When workers and young people across the country had increasingly volunteered to work in difficult areas for socialist construction, a while ago, Comrade Kim Yong-chol, who had worked at the Pyongyang Disabled Soldiers Automobile Parts Plant, voluntarily moved to Sadong Coal Mine out of a single desire to uphold the party with coal production. He expressed his determination to produce more coal at the coal mine to brilliantly implement the resolve he made before the altar of the great leader."

At 1100 GMT on 14 September, Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean carries a one-minute report on Kim Pok-nam, a worker at the Wood Processing Company under the Forestry Ministry, who has volunteered to work at a rural area.

The report says: "With a resolve to make our country and our fatherland rich with rice, he has moved to Anhung Cooperative Farm, Sunan District, Pyongyang, where there is the historic relic of the great leader's leadership." The report also says: "The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has done him the great favor of reading his letter in person." Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network then carries an under-one-minute report on a League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (LSWYK) Committee chairman at the Moranbong Park Management Office, and members of his family who have volunteered to work in Kangwon Province. The report says: "O Song-il, chairman of the LSWYK Committee at the Moranbong Park Management Office, and members of his family have volun-

teered to work at Poptong County, Kangwon Province. He expressed his resolve to always remember the efforts of the fatherly leader, who had paid deep attention to the country's agricultural work throughout his life and made every effort for this work, and uphold the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il with rice."

At 2100 GMT on 14 September, Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean carries a two-minute report on Kim Chong-il's thanks to 14 graduates of Kang Pan-sok Bereaved Families University for volunteering to work in coal mines or rural areas.

The report says: "Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and our people, has sent thanks to graduates of Kang Pan-sok Bereaved Families University who have volunteered to move to coal mines or rural areas." The report goes on to say: "The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il highly assessed their deeds and sent benevolent thanks to them." The report also notes a meeting held at this university to convey Kim Chong-il's thanks with Kim Kuk-tae, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) Central Committee, attending.

At 1100 GMT on 16 September, Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean carries a two-minute report on a worker at a Korean People's Army (KPA) unit who has volunteered to work at a general farm.

The report says: "Comrade Yi Sun-nam, who had worked at a KPA unit to which Comrade Choe Ho-in belongs, has voluntarily moved to the Yongjong Branch Farm of the Yongyon County General Farm." In the report, the recorded voice of an unidentified male says: "Upon hearing a report on Comrade Yi Sun-nam, who has volunteered to work at the general farm, where there is the immortal trace of the great leader's on-the-spot guidance, Comrade Kim Chong-il, our respected and beloved supreme commander, has sent thanks in person to Comrade Yi and his wife and had their episode widely introduced and propagandized as the pride of society."

At 1100 GMT on 17 September, Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean carries a two-minute report on meetings to deliver Kim Chong-il's thanks to those who have volunteered to work in coal mines and rural areas. The report says: "Meetings have been taken place to deliver thanks from Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and our people, 14 graduates of Kang Pan-sok Bereaved Families University and Han Yong-kyu, chief of a bureau of an enterprise where Comrade Paek Yong-song works, and members of his family who have volunteered to work at coal mines and socialist rural areas in hearty response to the party's revolutionary economic strategy.

The thanks from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il were delivered at the meeting with the enthusiastic applause of the meeting attendants."

South Korea

U.S. Soldier Given Suspended Sentence

SK1609080595 Seoul YONHAP in English
0753 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 16 (YONHAP) — Judge Kwon Sun-il of the Seoul District Court on Saturday sentenced James K. Hawkins, 21, of the Engineer Battalion of the Second U.S. Army Division to two and a half years in prison with a stay of execution for three years on assault and battery charges.

The U.S. Army soldier was charged with beating the taxi driver identified as a certain Chang, 44, with a dangerous weapon and inflicting upon him injuries requiring a two-week medical treatment on a street in Tongduchon, the base town of the second U.S. Army Division north of Seoul, on March 25.

Hawkins, after having a quarrel with the taxi driver about his taxi fees, ran away and did violence to the driver when he made after him, demanding the fees.

Hawkins later paid the driver "an apology money" agreed upon with him and the driver expressed hope for not punishing him, but judge Kwon said his outrage against the driver deserves "a heavy punishment."

In view of the money he paid to the driver and the driver's hope against his punishment, the court's sentence is considered unusually severe.

Press Coverage of Subway Incident Viewed

SK1609060295 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
16 Sep 95 p 5

[Article by editor Chang Myong-su]

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been a series of U.S. criticisms of the ROK press in connection with domestic reports on U.S. soldiers' violence at a subway station in Seoul on 19 May. U.S. officials are denouncing ROK media reports on this incident as distorted, irresponsible, and malicious. James Laney, U.S. ambassador to the ROK, insisted on this in an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES; and so did Joseph Nye, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, in interviews with THE PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES and with the U.S. military broadcasting network in the ROK. Assistant Secretary Nye also said: "More education of the press is required to solve such problems."

Later, in an article contributed to TONG-A ILBO, Laney, U.S. ambassador to the ROK, explained that

there had been a misunderstanding over his remarks quoted by THE NEW YORK TIMES, which were merely part of a dialogue in the course of discussions on many pending issues. Ambassador Laney, however, added: "But, it is true that I feel that important and essential facts were dropped in the course of reporting incidents involving U.S. Forces in the ROK."

All domestic newspapers reported on 20 May: "At around 2300 on 19 May, some 10 drunk American soldiers, who were harassing a Korean woman by touching her bottom, ganged up and gave a beating to Cho Chong-kuk, 30, when he tried to deter their behavior. Some 50 passengers who witnessed the incident ran to a police station to wage a demonstration demanding the punishment of the American soldiers. The police, however, could not even question the soldiers and returned them to the Eighth U.S. Army because of the terms of the ROK-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]." This incident aroused public opinion urging the revision of unequal terms of the agreement.

Ambassador Laney expressed regrets over the case, saying: "The woman whom ROK citizens thought was harassed by the American soldiers is the Korean wife of an American soldier. It was Cho who spit at her and hit her face first. The ROK press, however, did not report the full story of the incident."

However, it was impossible for reporters to cover the American soldiers' allegation that day because the police had no material on the suspects, not even a written statement by them, since they were returned to the Eighth U.S. Army right after the incident happened.

The Seoul District Public Prosecutors' Office is now in charge of the case. The truth has not yet been revealed because Cho's statement and the American soldiers' allegation are contradictory. Ambassador Laney and Assistant Secretary Nye's criticism of the ROK press is based on the American soldiers' allegation, and Cho is invariably insisting that the harassed Korean woman was a passenger, not the wife of one of the American soldiers. There is some truth to the criticism that ROK papers' reports were incomplete and emotional, granting that the SOFA served as an obstacle to covering the case. However, the United States overlooks the Korean people's accumulated indignation, hidden behind the ROK media reports, at the many cruel crimes committed by American soldiers in the ROK, such as the murder of a Korean woman named Yun Kum-i.

The education of military personnel stationed in foreign countries is as important as the education of journalists. If an American soldier harasses a woman, even if she is his wife, by touching her bottom at an ROK subway station, it is considered that the U.S. military authorities

have not educated their soldiers properly. The ROK and the United States should try to recognize each other's position and sentiments better in order to head toward equal relations.

Article Previews Auto Talks With U.S.

SK1709020595 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by staff reporter No Chun-hon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea is prepared to take the automobile issue to the World Trade Organization (WTO) should the United States make excessive market liberalization demands in their talks beginning in Washington Tuesday [19 September].

However, the Korean delegation is reportedly ready to make major concessions in view of the present U.S. political and business climate. In particular, fervor over next year's presidential election is certain to toughen U.S. stance.

Deputy Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Han Tok-su said yesterday that all necessary measures have been taken to follow up on the results of the two-day talks which could result in the U.S. invoking its Super 301.

"It is difficult to anticipate how Washington will react to the latest efforts by the Korean government to make its market more accessible, but the situation in the U.S. auto industry is tense," he told reporters.

Han was referring to possible U.S. dissatisfaction with the reduction in taxes of 13 luxury items. One of them being luxury automobiles with engine capacities of more than 2,000cc whose excise tax will be slashed by 5 percentage points.

Pointing out that the overall climate in the American automobile industry appears to be such that a small reduction in taxes will not be satisfactory, Han said it is left to be seen how Washington views the overall picture.

He said, "The talks will not be centered on isolated issues but the overall package of how Korea has been making the domestic market more accessible to foreign competition."

Han leaves today for Washington with the Korean delegation headed by Han Yong-su, MOTIE's [Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy] director general for international trade. The U.S. side will be led by Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] Christina Lund.

The bilateral talks are part of the process leading to Sept. 27 when the USTR is expected to decide whether

or not to designate Korea on its Priority Foreign Country Practice.

Should the U.S. find market opening measure in Korea "unacceptable," the USTR will launch an investigation and retaliate through the WTO. The process could take up to a year.

The U.S. naturally has the option of going ahead with its own sanctions outside the WTO framework, as it did against Japan, which will then spur Korea to seek arbitration through the world trade body.

The trouble, industry insiders said, is that what American automakers want is greater sales in the Korean market, something that cannot be achieved through deregulation or reduction in taxes.

"The fact that taxes are reduced does not mean that American cars will become more popular with Korean consumers. There is only so much that the government can do," one senior MOTIE official said.

Han also argued that current Korean standards can hardly be seen as being discriminatory or protectionistic, although foreign companies often choose to interpret matters in their own way. "Our policy is that those wishing to own luxury vehicles should bear a higher tax burden, similar to some other foreign countries. This is uniform for both domestic and foreign vehicles," Han elaborated.

Though at issue is the internal tax clause of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the predecessor to WTO, the process is often political in nature, he added.

U.S. Expected To Focus on Trade 'Compliance'

SK1609055995 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Sep 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States is expected to continue its "offensive" trade policy toward its trading partners to ensure that they conform to their market liberalization commitments over the next two years.

In a report yesterday, the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) said Washington is reportedly determined to utilize all means necessary to secure new access to emerging markets.

KOTRA officials said remarks to this effect were made by Jennifer Hillman, legal advisor to the U.S. Trade Representative, in a seminar on legal affairs held recently in the United States. According to them, Hillman indicated that the United States will focus on whether or not countries with which it has secured

market opening commitments are actually carrying out the promises.

Pointing out that Washington has been busy concluding Uruguay Round negotiations and details concerning the North American Free Trade Agreement, she told the seminar that the emphasis will now shift to compliance.

Shelf-Life of Imported U.S. Beef Questioned

SK1709100795 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
17 Sep 95 p 23

[Report by Pak Sung-hui]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even though the shelf-life of imported U.S. beef was set at 90 days as a result of the ROK-U.S. food shelf-life negotiations, it has been revealed that the possible storage period is actually a maximum of 70 days after butchering. Thus, it is very likely that deteriorated imported U.S. beef may be retailed.

Yi Kyu-taek, a Democratic Party legislator, and Chong Tae-yong, a United Liberal Democrats legislator, stated at the National Assembly Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery Committee on 16 September that a test on U.S. vacuum-packed beef conducted by the Korea Food Development Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery reveals that the possible storage period is 62 to 72 days.

According to tests on refrigerated beef from the U.S. companies Munfort [name as transliterated] and IBP, the VBN [expansion unknown] value — which reflects the deterioration of protein during storage — of Munfort's products was 21.5 mg per 100 mg at 0 degrees centigrade 62 days after butchering, and the VBN value of IBP's product was 20.6 mg per 100 mg 83 days after butchering. This is 20 mg per 100 mg higher than the standard value.

A sensory test also shows that the smell and freshness of imported refrigerated beef drops below 4.0 grade, which is below average, after 62 to 72 days in storage.

Increased Support for U.S. Forces Viewed

SK1609044795 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
16 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 15 September that the United States is demanding that the ROK's share of defense expenses for U.S. Forces in the ROK be drastically increased beginning next year. The United States is demanding an increase of more than \$60 million in 1996, twice as much as the average amount of increase during the past five years, from 1991 to 1995.

According to the agreement signed in 1991 with the United States on the sharing of defense expenses, the ROK shouldered \$260 million in its share of defense expenses in 1994 and \$300 million in 1995, averaging \$370 million a year during the period from 1991 to 1995.

However, the United States stressed that such an increase can hardly meet the drastically increasing maintenance cost for U.S. Forces in the ROK, and requested that the ROK include the ROK's price increase rate, economic growth rate, the portion of increase in personnel expenses, and the like, in the rate of increase in its share. Thus, the United States is calling on the ROK to share more than \$360 million next year.

Responding this, the ROK pointed out that the scale of U.S. Forces in the ROK has not changed. Therefore, only the price increase rate should be reflected in the increase of its share. Thus, the ROK has revealed its position that sharing more than the increase made in ordinary years would be difficult.

Since last June, the ROK and the United States have been negotiating the share of defense expenses after 1996, and the issue is expected to be finalized during ROK-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting slated for next month.

Our government's share of \$300 million for defense expenses this year is nearly one-third of the total \$930 million required for field operations, with the exception of personnel expenses for U.S. soldiers (37,000) and civilians employed by U.S. Forces.

Regarding the amount, a relevant high-ranking government official stated that "the difference between the two sides is clear. However, the sides fully understand the position of the other side, and are closely cooperating with each other. Therefore, the problem should be settled satisfactorily."

U.S. Forces Reportedly To Deploy More Apaches

SK1809014995 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
18 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Kyong Yong-won]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 17 September that the United States is planning to deploy an additional battalion of AH-64 Apache offensive helicopters at the U.S. 2d Division in the ROK within next year. This battalion consists of 24 helicopters.

A U.S. Forces source in the ROK said that "as part of a troop reinforcement plan of U.S. Forces in the ROK, the United States plans to replace the AH-1S Cobra helicopter battalion in the U.S. 2d Division

with an Apache helicopter battalion next year. With this additional deployment, the number of Apache helicopters in the U.S. Forces in the ROK will increase to 72. As a result, U.S. Forces in the ROK will have a more powerful offensive capability than North Korea's mechanized units."

Apache helicopters were deployed at the U.S. Forces in the ROK early last year for the first time. It was learned that U.S. Forces in the ROK currently have two battalions with 48 helicopters.

The Apache helicopter is equipped with 16 Hellfire anti-tank missiles and rockets and with a 30 mm machine gun. Thus, the helicopter is known to be a threatening offensive weapon to the enemy's mechanized units, including tanks.

Defense Ministry To Purchase U.S. Radar System

SK1809072995 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 18 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Yi Chung-kun]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that the ROK Defense Ministry signed a contract with the U.S. Defense Department to introduce five AN/TPQ-37 artillery locating radar with a view to preparing against North Korea's long-range guns which reportedly include Seoul within their firing range.

A high-ranking Defense Ministry official has revealed that "the purchase contract for the radar, which has been promoted since last year, was signed last July with the United States," and added that "the four radars will be introduced by early December and the remainder will be brought in next year."

The official explained that "in contrast to some opinions that the performance of the radar program is not excellent, the Army has confirmed that the artillery locating radar has no abnormalities in its capacity according to the results of the testing at the U.S. 2d Division in the ROK," and added that "we plan to deploy the radar at each Army corps as soon as the radar system is introduced, and prepare against the threat of North Korea's long-range guns along with the existing weapons, including multi-barrelled rockets."

The AN/TPQ-37 artillery locating radar reportedly costs between 12 billion won and 13 billion won.

The AN/TPQ-37 radar is an ultra-modern weapon which can locate weapons' firing simultaneously from 10 positions within the range of 25 to 30 kilometers as well as the sole weapon system that can effectively countermeasure long-range guns which North Korea has deployed along the front line.

The military had already brought in 11 AN/TPQ-36 mortar locating radar whose techniques are very similar to the artillery locating radar.

KEDO Director: North Demands 'More Pragmatic'

SK1609023395 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea has become more pragmatic in its demand for adds-on to the project to build light-water reactors in the Communist state, a top official responsible for the project said yesterday. "I can say flatly that various reports that the DPRK (North Korea) is seeking an additional \$1 billion are gross exaggerations," said Stephen Bosworth, executive director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), a multinational consortium set up to finance the reactor project. But he declined to elaborate on the talks on a supply agreement, which top officials of the consortium and North Korea held in Kuala Lumpur early this week.

On arriving in Seoul, Bosworth told reporters that North Korea showed eagerness to reach an agreement in the Kuala Lumpur talks. "The atmosphere was positive... there was an absence of polemics and demagoguery," he said.

Bosworth flew into Seoul along with Choe Yong-chin, a South Korean deputy executive director, from Tokyo where they had attended a meeting of the executive board of the consortium after the Kuala Lumpur talks. During his three-day stay here, Bosworth said he will talk with officials from Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO), the state-run power monopoly, about a commercial contract for the provision of the light-water reactor.

Bosworth also dismissed speculations that the role of a program coordinator in the reactor project may overshadow that of KEPCO as a prime contractor for the project. "The American company that will be eventually selected as the program coordinator will be a technical arm of KEDO," he said. As an integral part of KEDO, he said, the program coordinator will help the consortium work with KEPCO, which will be primarily responsible for the construction of the project. He said the final selection of the reactor construction site will be made when KEDO completes the site survey.

The consortium is preparing to send a second survey team to Sinpo in North Korea, which was selected by Russians in the late 1980s as the site for reactor construction. Bosworth, who admitted difficulties in obtaining funds for heavy oil promised to North Korea as alternative energy, said he is nevertheless confident that shipments will be made as scheduled.

North Reportedly Recognizes South-Type Reactors

*SK1609090195 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN
in Korean 16 Sep 95 p 2*

[Report by correspondent Kang Song-po from Kuala Lumpur: "North Korea In Actuality Recognizes ROK-Type Light-Water Reactors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that concerning the project of supporting light-water reactors to DPRK, North Korea in actuality recognizes "ROK-type" reactors and "the ROK's central role."

On 15 September, a relevant official in the delegation of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO], who attended high-level talks and experts talks with the North Korean delegation in Kuala Lumpur beginning 11 September, pointed out that "the North Korean side did not show a sense of rejection of the expression 'ROK model.'"

The official pointed out that, "while the KEDO delegation was explaining its position toward the draft agreement on the provision, it used the term 'ROK-type light-water reactors' many times. However, North Korea did not attempt to pick a quarrel with the KEDO delegation regarding this."

In an agreement with North Korea during talks in Kuala Lumpur last June, the United States defined the light-water reactors to be provided to North Korea as "the light-water reactors with two cooling fuel reactors designated by KEDO," thus implying the ROK-type in actuality. However, the North Korean side denied this in the past.

U.S. Role in KEDO Negotiations Criticized

*SK1709055695 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
17 Sep 95 p 3*

[Editorial: "Are We Going To Play a Leading Role as Merely a Source of Money?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Does a "leading role" in the project providing light-water reactors to North Korea mean the "role of the main source of money?" What it means is a party that makes all important decisions during the entire course of the project, from holding negotiations with North Korea for concluding an agreement on the provision of light-water reactors, to designing, constructing, and managing light-water reactors. The ROK's role mentioned in the negotiations between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO] and North Korea is not considered a leading role. Granting that it is inevitable, in a technical aspect of the negotiation, for the United States to represent KEDO for negotiations with North Korea,

the United States is supposed to lead the negotiations substantially in accordance with ROK plans. In fact, however, the United States does not do so. The United States is trying to let the ROK only bear the expense. We cannot accept this.

Because the United States has mainly talked about the ROK's share of most of the expense since even before the Geneva agreement, we entertain misgivings lest KEDO Executive Director Bosworth's visit to the ROK should be made in this vein. Hoping that the ROK will also play a leading role in providing additional support to North Korea, Bosworth complimented us. However, we are not pleased with the compliment. Nonetheless, it is not because the United States is playing a leading role in the negotiations for concluding an agreement on providing light-water reactors. The United States is bent on listening to and satisfying North Korea's demands. This is probably because the United States is concentrating efforts to prevent North Korea from refueling its reactor in Yongbyon. However, if the United States intends to transfer most of North Korea's unreasonable demands to us, it will only provoke the ROK people's protest.

Once North Korea decided to receive light-water reactors, the project of providing them can be implemented only when the supplier's plans are respected. It is impossible to push ahead with the project under the situation in which all demands made by the beneficiary, who does not know how to construct light-water reactors, should be met. It is more important for the United States to explain this to North Korea than trying to meet all its demands. By doing so, the United States should see to it that the Korea Electric Power Corporation, which is supposed to be a main contractor, can start practical work for constructing light-water reactors as soon as possible. It is not the time to adhere to the issue concerning the additional expense, but time to discuss and review a concrete plan to construct the light-water reactors. The roles of the main contractors, KEDO members including the United States and Japan, and North Korea should be discussed now, so as to derive an agreement on the provision of light-water reactors. We are very displeased with the U.S. attitude of focusing on sharing the additional expense which has not yet been calculated, shelving the discussion on a detailed plan for constructing reactors, since we feel it is an act aimed at handcuffing the ROK.

Editorial Rejects Higher LWR Financial Burden*SK1709123295 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
17 Sep 95 p 3*

[Editorial: "No More Additional Share of Light-Water Reactor Costs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Where on earth is the limit on the ROK's share in building light-water reactors [LWR] for North Korea? Originally, under the condition that the ROK would take the central role in construction of light-water reactors, which was not even stipulated in the agreement, the ROK was to pay nearly 70 percent of the total cost of \$4 billion. It is absolutely incomprehensible that the ROK must take the central role as well in the considerable amount of collateral facilities as a result of the first round of talks between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO] and North Korea held in Kuala Lumpur.

KEDO Director Bosworth said in Seoul that the \$1 billion cost of the collateral facilities is exaggerated and he thanked the ROK for taking the central role. What is the justification for the ROK bearing the burden of additional costs totalling hundreds of millions of dollars? This is obviously another heavy burden and the government should give the people an explanation.

The LWR agreement signed between the United States and North Korea in June has no clauses stipulating that "the reactor model will be reactors of the ROK-style and the ROK will assume the central role in construction" due to objections from North Korea. The model was vaguely described as "the model currently under construction" and only the agreement on the establishment of KEDO stipulates that KEDO designated Kepco as the prime contractor. This was all that justified the enormous cost, leaving room for North Korea to argue about it later. Without any justification and reason, it is absolutely unreasonable for the ROK to bear another burden of the cost of some 10 collateral facilities, including the transmission network, a port, and a road in Sinpo, North Korea.

What astonished the people more is that Director Bosworth hinted at shifting the heavy oil cost, which will be \$50 million annually, to KEDO beginning in 1996. A considerable portion of this is expected to be another burden to the ROK. Even though the cost is ostensibly transferred to KEDO, the ROK will obviously play the fruitless role of an easy money source.

This is attributable to the ROK Government's mistake of leaving the negotiation table on the North Korean nuclear issue as North Korea demanded, and accepting the term "the central role" without any clear stipulations on it in the LWR agreement.

Although belatedly, the ROK Government should show a resolute position. The ROK cannot indirectly take all the burden as North Korea demands merely because the United States and Japan "congratulate" it for doing so. The government should inquire into the reason and directly take charge. Since it was the United States which agreed to supply heavy oil for 10 years, the ROK should refuse to bear the cost through KEDO. The ROK should no longer follow North Korea's one-sided demands.

Reportage on Question of Flood Aid for North**Dailies Comment on Aid***SK1509142895*

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports and editorials from ROK vernacular newspapers published on 15 September reacting to the ROK Government's preparations to provide aid to North Korea following the recent flooding there.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 1 a 400-word report on the news conference by Na Ung-pae, deputy prime minister for reunification, held on 14 September, saying that "the ROK Government has decided to initially provide North Korea with relief goods through the Red Cross" and will consider government-level aid when North Korea makes an official request.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 1 a 900-word report on civilian aid for North Korea. The report notes that the Korean National Council of Churches has decided to hold a fund-raising campaign and that the Catholic Church has decided to collect donation rice. The report further notes that the Won Buddhist Association has opened a bank account for fund raising, and that the Citizens' Coalition for Realizing Economic Justice has also opened an office to help North Korean flood refugees.

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial titled "North Korea Should Change Its Attitude." The editorial states that as compatriots and on a humanitarian basis, the ROK people cannot just turn their backs on the flood damage in North Korea when the international community is coming out to help. The editorial notes, however, that what is putting a brake on aid from the ROK is "the humiliation the ROK received when it provided the North with 150,000 tonnes of rice," and points out that "the problem is North Korea's attitude." The editorial states that it would be "desirable" for North Korea to return the crew of the Usong fishing boat and Pastor An Sung-un so that the ROK Government can more freely adopt policies as

public opinion is pacified. The editorial concludes that "North Korea should change its attitude and become a responsible member of the international community."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial titled "The Position on Aid to North Korea." The editorial states that it is "understandable" that the ROK Government has decided to provide North Korea with aid, but people feel "unpleasant" and "uneasy" when they are reminded of the incidents of the Usong fishing boat, Pastor An, and the coercive hoisting of the North Korean flag on a South Korean rice ship. The editorial asserts that "the channel for delivering relief aid should be restricted to the Red Cross," which was also the precedent in 1984 when North Korea provided aid for South Korean flood victims. Noting that many countries still hesitate to provide aid despite the UN report on North Korea's flood damage, the editorial attributes this to North Korea's tightly closed society. The editorial denounces North Korea for asking help from all countries but South Korea. The editorial concludes that North Korea is alienating the South Korean authorities by "despising" South Korea. The editorial says that "the ROK does not need to send any relief goods without an official request from North Korea," noting that the issue will naturally be raised at the third round of Beijing rice talks slated for 27 September and that the ROK is not the one to be anxious. The editorial also warns that individual civilian-level aid would only confuse the situation.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial titled "The Condition for Providing Aid for North Korea's Flood Damage." The editorial positively appraises the ROK Government's policy, assessing it as a difficult decision because of North Korea's ungratefulness. The editorial reviews the progress of North Korea's announcement of its flood damage and the pertinent UN assessment, then urges the ROK Government to take a more independent and fair attitude toward North Korea. The editorial states that "the aid for North Korea's flood damage should be based on a humanitarian basis" and that "the ROK Government should not add any political color to the aid," expecting this will bring about a turning point in North-South relations. The editorial also warns that the government should not repeat the mistakes made during the previous rice aid episode.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial titled "How To Provide Aid to North Korean Flood Victims." Reviewing Deputy Prime Minister Na Ung-pae's news conference, the editorial states that "the ROK Government would be able to provide larger-scale aid if North Korea made an official request." The editorial explains that the

discomfort remaining from the previous rice aid episode is preventing the ROK Government from more actively helping North Korea. The editorial concludes that North Korea should apologize for its kidnappings and the like and frankly request the ROK's aid.

Deputy Premier Na Discusses Aid

SK1509133595 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
15 Sep 95 p 3

[Interview with Na Ung-pae, deputy prime minister and minister of the National Unification Board, by reporter Kim Song-chin at the National Unification Board in Seoul on 14 September — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the afternoon of 14 September, Na Ung-pae, deputy prime minister and minister of the National Unification Board, held a news conference and announced the government's relief aid policy toward North Korea for the recent flood damage there.

[Kim Song-chin] A meeting between high-level officials of the party and government was held this morning. What is the government's position?

[Na Ung-pae] We will consider participating in providing relief assistance to North Korea as a member of the United Nations, if the international community makes requests. However, taking into consideration the special relations between the North and South, it would be desirable to provide relief assistance to North Korea via the North and South Korean Red Cross Societies if North Korea made a formal request. The date and scale of the aid would be determined during further close consultation between the party and government.

[Kim] Is there any discord between the party and government?

[Na] There is no discord at all. However, the Democratic Liberal Party has asked the party to be prudent in providing relief aid to North Korea. In particular, the lessons we learned from the provision of rice to North Korea in the past show that we desperately need the people's cooperation and support in relations with North Korea. Therefore, we will solve the problems through party-government consultations in the future.

[Kim] What is the content of the relief assistance?

[Na] We will focus on the daily necessities necessary for recovering from the flood damage and helping flood victims, including medical supplies and blankets.

[Kim] To what extent are you going to provide aid?

[Na] Considering the scale of assistance provided to Japan and Russia during their earthquake, we will send

aid to North Korea at an appropriate level. This will be determined through future party- government consultation. In particular, it is the government's position that the relief assistance provided by the government should go through appropriate procedures.

[Kim] What are the appropriate procedures?

[Na] North-South relations are special relations, not in a normal state, even though we are the same fellow countrymen. Of course, as a member of the United Nations, the ROK can participate in providing relief assistance to North Korea at the request of the international community, even though North Korea has not made such a request. However, we can only provide massive assistance to North Korea at the request of the North Korean side, taking into the consideration the special relations between the North and South.

[Kim] Is there any official request from North Korea?

[Na] We have not received any request from the North Korean Government?

[Kim] Can you regard it as a request from the North Korean authorities if the Korea Samcholli General Company makes a request for relief assistance through the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation?

[Na] No, the North Korean authorities should make any request through official channels.

[Kim] To what extent can private organizations provide relief aid to North Korea?

[Na] It can be determined at a reasonable level. It is considered desirable to provide assistance to North Korea through the Korea Red Cross Society.

[Kim] Is it possible for enterprises to provide relief assistance to North Korea?

[Na] Considering the special relations between the North and South, I don't believe it is desirable for enterprises to participate.

[Kim] Is it possible for media companies to provide relief assistance to North Korea after conducting campaigns for collecting funds?

[Na] I don't believe that is desirable.

Aid Requested in 'Secret Messages'

*SK1709021295 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
17 Sep 95 p 1*

[Report by Ku Song-chae]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea has asked for emergency relief assistance from over 120 countries, including some 10 countries with which North Korea

has no diplomatic relations, mobilizing all its diplomatic networks in a bid to overcome flood damages. This was learned on 16 September.

A Foreign Ministry official stated: "North Korea sent secret messages to Pyongyang missions of some 110 countries, among the 133 allied countries, with the exception of some nations in civil war or on the verge of starvation such as Somalia and Lebanon, and bid them to ask their respective governments to provide flood relief aid to North Korea." The official continued: "North Korea also asked relief assistance from some 10 non-allied nations, including Taiwan, the United States, and Japan, through indirect channels."

The official also said: "About 30 countries, including the United States, Germany, China, and Russia, have decided to provide relief assistance to North Korea." The official continued: "However, the total amount of relief aid promised by these countries to provide to North Korea does not exceed \$1 million."

In light of internationally-accepted norms and practices, the full-fledged diplomacy that North Korea is now engaged in to overcome flood damages is extremely unusual.

Seoul Awaits Official Request

*SK1709025395 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
17 Sep 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has decided not to send any government-level relief goods to North Korea, unless the North Korean side officially requests our support.

This in fact annuls the previous government plan to send \$2 million worth government-level relief goods to North Korea through the ROK Red Cross Society. This plan was revealed by Na Ung-pae, deputy prime minister and unification minister, while attending a meeting of high-level officials of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] on 14 September.

A relevant high-ranking government official on 16 September stated that "The government made this decision internally by reflecting the public opinion criticizing the government for planning to send relief goods to North Korea under the circumstances in which the North Korean side has not requested our support."

This official also revealed that "the government and the DLP agreed to postpone the discussion of the relief goods issue between the party and the government until North Korea officially requests the support. Therefore, there will be no party-government consultations on this issue for the time being."

This being the case, unless the North Korean side officially requests the support of relief goods during the third round of talks between authorities of North and South Korea slated for 27 September in Beijing, the support by our side will be limited only to \$50,000 to be offered by the ROK Red Cross Society and to relief goods to be collected by civilian organizations.

The official pointed out that "in view of the fact that the North Korean Red Cross refused to receive the telephone message sent from ROK Red Cross Society on 15 September, it is highly likely that North Korea will not accept the relief goods—which are not many—to be sent by ROK Red Cross. In this case, the ROK Red Cross intends to send them through the International Red Cross."

This government hard-line stance was prompted by North Korea's hostile attitude toward our government shown even after it received 150,000 tonnes of rice (180 billion won worth) from us. It is observed that our government's hard-line stance is also intended to encourage the North Korean side to change its position and to come to the dialogue table with a sincere attitude.

Daily Polls Public Opinion

SK1709064995 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
17 Sep 95 pp 1, 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The government and Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] showed differences concerning the issue of providing support in the way of relief goods to North Korea, including the timing, scale, method, and procedure of the support. The government merely announced its plan to allow the provision of support in the way of relief goods through the Red Cross and civilian organizations. A telephone poll conducted on 15 and 16 September by CHUNGANG ILBO among 1,386 citizens over 20 years of age indicated that 62.9 percent of the respondents oppose the "immediate delivery of support" through relief goods to North Korea, and 37.1 percent agreed, thus showing the majority's prudent position.

As for the reasons for their opposition, 50.2 percent said that "priority should be first given to the restoration of flood damages in the Chungchong provincial areas," and 34.4 percent pointed out that "the North Korean attitude has been impertinent." They seem to still be unhappy over the incident of the hoisting of a North Korean flag in our ship, Sea Apex, and the abduction of the Samson Venus crew. In addition, 8.2 percent said the reason of their opposition was "our government's subservient posture toward North Korea," while 3.6 percent said "there was no official request from North Korea." Of those who approved of the support, 71.8 percent pointed

out that "they agree to the provision of the support because the people in the North are fellow countrymen," while 16.8 answered that the support should be offered "from a humanitarian point of view." [passage omitted]

As for the timing of the support, 69.5 percent emphasized that it should be given "only when North Korea officially requests it"; 20.2 percent insisted that the support should be offered "even without North Korea's request," while 10.3 percent agreed to send support "even at the request of civilian organizations." [passage omitted]

As for the side which should propose the support first, 70 percent pointed out that "the North Korean side should propose first" while 30 percent asserts "our side first." This means that seven out of 10 assume a passive attitude that "we need not provide support immediately but should wait until North Korea makes an official request," and that three out of 10 assume a positive stance that "we should immediately provide the support; that the request by a civilian organizations is sufficient, and it does not matter even if our side proposes it first."

Regarding the appropriate scope of the support, 30.1 percent answered "as little as possible," and 29.7 percent about \$50,000 from the Red Cross' own financial sources, thus showing a relatively negative view on the scope of support. Only 9.6 percent noted that "about \$2 million should be offered as initially planned." However, 29.9 percent answered that "as much support as possible should be given," thus 39.5 percent of respondents showed a positive view for the scale of the support. The poll also reflected our people's demand that our government should approach North Korea based on "the position to seek practical interests." However, the people are not strongly opposed to civilian-level support. Of the respondents, only 20.8 percent opposed to "civilian support" while 53.6 percent said "the relief goods by religious and civilian organizations should be allowed." The poll indicated that our people are not opposed in principle to the support to North Korea.

Regarding the basic principle of support, 67.5 percent expressed "sympathy with the principle," while 32.5 is "not sympathetic" with the principle. [passage omitted]

Concerning the desirable diplomatic attitude of the government toward North Korea, 58.3 percent pointed out that "the government should constantly positively seek measures for the improvement of relations with North Korea," while 41 percent answered that "the government should passively respond to North Korea until it changes its attitude." Thus, the poll showed that our people do not want to turn our face away from North Korea unconditionally.

As for civilian economic exchange with the North, 66.7 percent of the respondents answered that "this exchange should be pushed for irrespective of the political issue," and 30.8 percent stressed that "civilian economic exchange should be advanced in step with the political issue." This indicates that the political quarters in both sides are essentially responsible for the stumbling block laid between North and South Korea.

Government Weighs Aid Formula

*SK1809061095 Seoul YONHAP in English
0555 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — The South Korean Government is considering a plan to offer North Korea funds to help the latter recover from the flood damage which it recently sustained.

A government official, disclosing that chances are high the North Korean Red Cross Society will receive South Korean flood relief through the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) rather than directly from the Korean National Red Cross (KNRC), said Monday, "Should this be the case, the government is studying how it could participate in the IFRC's rehabilitation assistance program as well as in its emergency relief program if it is so requested."

One formula currently being considered by the administration calls for offering North Korea assistance in the form of cash as opposed to supplies and permitting them to use the money to purchase equipment required to aid in the flood relief effort and for paying recovery expenses like wages.

However, the official declined to give further details about the plan.

In the meantime, the KNRC has informed the North Korean Red Cross Society through the IFRC delegation now visiting Pyongyang of its desire to send medical supplies, clothes and blankets directly to them, a KNRC official said.

"The response from the North Korean Red Cross Society to the message we sent is not yet known," the official added.

Seoul Rejects Tying Aid

*SK1809071595 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean
18 Sep 95 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 18 September that the government has finally decided not to adopt the plan to link the relief assistance for the North Korean flood damaged areas with the repatriation of the abducted Usongho crew members and Reverend An Sung-un.

A government official stated: "Because the relief assistance to North Korea should be considered at the humanitarian level, it is not desirable to link it with other issues."

Accordingly, the government has decided to formulate plans to actively provide relief assistance to North Korea, if the North Korean side makes a request during the rice talks in Beijing on 27 September, while regarding the request as official.

Because North Korea has not responded to proposal the government made last week to provide direct assistance to North Korea via the Korean Red Cross, the government has decided to consider plans to provide — through the International Red Cross — indirect assistance to North Korea, including relief goods collected by private organizations.

The government official stated: "It is most likely that North Korea will not react to the relief assistance offer by the private organizations, but, in this case, the government will ask the International Red Cross to deliver the relief assistance to North Korea."

Aid of \$2 Million Considered

*SK1809124195 Seoul YONHAP in English
1125 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — Deputy Prime Minister Na Ung-pae Monday [18 September] aired the possibility of his government providing 2 million dollars in a flood aid to North Korea.

"I think South Korea, as a member of the world community, could provide up to about 2 million dollars to North Korea as a flood relief aid even if there is no aid request from Pyongyang," Na said.

South Korea donated about 2 million dollars to Japan when the Kobe area was struck hard by an earthquake last year.

Na said that any assistance exceeding the 2-million-dollar level may be considered only after there is an official request from North Korea or an international organization.

"For, such an extra aid cannot be seen merely as relief assistance but be studied in the overall framework of South-North relations," the deputy premier said.

Last week, Na said the government was considering giving 2 million dollars to North Korea, which he soon had to retract in the face of strong objection from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

The DLP opposed the aid plan saying the people won't tolerate such a hefty donation especially because of the

hostile attitude North Korea displayed in a couple of incidents that flared up in the early stage of the shipment of rice to North Korea.

Na's remarks Monday were apparently based on the belief that if the government fails to act now due to the DLP's objection, it would miss an opportune time to do something significant to a consequential progress in South-North relations.

"It is not that the people were opposed to rice shipment to North Korea, but what they wanted was that there ought to have been proper procedures," Na said.

Possible Flood of Refugees From North Examined

SK1809092095 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN
in Korean 18 Sep 95 p 3

[Article by reporter Yi Pyong-kwan: "Background on the Government's Overall Plans Concerning North Korean Refugees"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Trends within North Korea are probably very serious.

It is not easy to directly grasp the North Korean situation because North Korea has thoroughly prevented information from reaching the outside world. However, information fragmentarily provided by third countries and international organizations shows how very serious it may be.

Rumors that the North Korean system is unstable have been spread on several occasions in recent days, but the recent information about North Korea is more reliable than previous information because it has been provided by a third party from neither North nor South Korea following the great flood damage in North Korea.

Judging from the fact alone that North Korea — which has maintained its pride based on the *chuche* idea — has openly asked for foreign cooperation to restore the flood damage, we can easily guess how serious the North Korean situation may be.

Furthermore, in a report prepared by relevant officials of the international organizations who have recently been to North Korea are details that make us wonder if there is a ruling power in North Korea.

Recently, armed soldiers reportedly attacked civilian houses in areas around the Hamgyong Provinces and North Pyongan Province, North Korea, and plundered them of food. This shows how very serious the North Korean food shortage situation may be.

The fact that soldiers loot food in North Korea where priority has been given to distributing food to the army units over private citizens can be a yardstick for

estimating the seriousness of food shortages throughout North Korea.

We can guess that there may be some things happening in North Korea that have caused the courage of the People's Army — the pride of North Korea — to drop, and that the North Korean people have turned their backs on the Army.

There are reports that some people have struck authorities or waged protest demonstrations against them in the flood-damaged areas as a result of the authorities' failure to take appropriate measures following the heavy rains.

The North Korean authorities not only failed to restore 100,000 houses which had been destroyed by the heavy rains, but also could not provide flood victims with equipment that could help restore the submerged paddies and roads. Therefore, everything depends on manual labor.

International organizations predict that the North Korean flood victims have no alternative but to spend the coming winter without decent shelter.

Among the remains of the North Korean soldiers who floated down the Imjin River some time ago, there were some weak corpses that cannot be regarded as of normal weight for an ordinary man because of malnutrition. This has frightened the ROK Army authorities.

This being the case, the conventional wisdom is that Kim Chong-il's succession to power — which was expected to take place in October — cannot be achieved.

Under these circumstances, what the government's security ministers worry most about is the possibility that the North Korean system will suddenly collapse.

This is because they believe that the recent North Korean situation is similar to the cases of other countries that have had experiences similar to what North Korea is now experiencing.

The relevant government officials express the opinion that they cannot rule out the possibility that if North Korea fails to formulate plans to settle the problems soon, a massive refugee exodus will occur, even if the North Korean system does not collapse.

However, the problem is that our government has not prepared any plans to deal with the possibility of this occurring.

Before now, the government had not considered the possibility of a massive refugee exodus from North Korea.

Because the law to protect defectors — which could be considered a law covering refugees — is formulated in terms of an extremely limited number of defectors, it is not capable of dealing with a massive influx of refugees.

Nor has a special fund been prepared to help a massive number of refugees.

It is very fortunate that the government has earnestly begun formulating plans to deal with a massive refugee exodus from North Korea — though belatedly — being aware of the seriousness of the true North Korean situation.

Assembly Urges Increase in N-S Cooperation Fund

SK1709093795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0921 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP) — The National Assembly said Sunday that the government should work out measures to rapidly increase the South-North Cooperation Fund.

The Office of Legislative and Budgetary Counsel said in a report that the fund which reached 160 billion won as of the end of 1994 should be increased rapidly if South Korea is to smoothly support light-water reactors, rice and other materials to North Korea.

"The South-North Cooperation Fund can be transferred to unification fund if the North Korean regime suddenly collapses," the report said.

It added that if the government is to reduce its financial burden in such an emergency situation, it should work out measures now to raise the fund. Collecting donation from the people can be one of the measures, the report said.

Government To Bar DPRK Warships in Strait

SK1609122695 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
16 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Yi Sang-il]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the ROK Government's proposal to extend its territorial waters in the Korean Strait, in the event that the Japanese Government also decides to extend its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles, some international waters in the Korean Strait will be eliminated. The ROK Government reportedly decided on 15 September not to allow the passage of North Korean warships and submarines in the area should the international waters be eliminated. The government, however, will allow the passage of North Korean commercial ships.

A Foreign Ministry official said: "The Korean Strait is currently an international sea route. With the extension

of the territorial waters by the ROK and Japan and the consequent elimination of international waters, we must guarantee free passage to all foreign vessels, including warships, pertinent to the United Nations Law of the Sea. However, since North Korea is in hostile relations with the ROK, we will prohibit the passage of North Korean warships and submarines."

The official explained: "The free passage guaranteed by the United Nations Law of the Sea is under the condition that the ship does not pose a threat to the peace and security of the neighboring countries. It is not against the international law for us to prohibit the passage of North Korean warships and submarines in fear of reconnaissance and hostile activities."

North Said Conducting Major Military Exercise

SK1809034495 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
18 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that despite a severe food shortage, flood damages, and the spread of cholera, North Korea is currently staging a large-scale military training.

According to ROK military authorities on 17 September, North Korea launched an over three-month "military training under the evaluation and inspection of the state" [kukka panjongkomyol hullyon] — the largest scale of its annual military exercises — beginning early this month.

It was learned that this training was initially scheduled for early August but was delayed for a month due to the flood damages and food shortages.

Military authorities revealed that Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the North Korean People's Army, visited an outpost in the foremost frontline in the DMZ, in Kangwon Province's east coast, on the morning of 13 September, and inspected outposts in the South Korean side and the state of deployment of the South Korean Armed Forces, thus paying attention to its movements.

This is the first time that Kim Chong-il has visited an outpost in the foremost front in the DMZ.

The military training under the state's evaluation and inspection is an exercise conducted under the supervision of the North Korean Ministry of the People's Armed Forces. This training is intended to examine the condition of military exercises by the entire Army and the Army's combat readiness posture. Thus, the training is known to be the highest-level military training for the North Korean Army during which a comprehensive evaluation of its annual military exercises is to be made.

During the current training, North Korea staged a tactical mobilization of large-size units, and a training by two-opponent armies by forming a rival force. In addition to this ground forces' exercise, North Korea is also carrying out a naval mobilization and firing exercise, as well as tactical Air Force training on each base.

A relevant official in the ROK military authorities said that "despite the difficult situation in which North Korea asked for support of rice and the like from various nations in the world, it is staging a large-scale military training. It is highly likely that in addition to the military purpose of the annual training, it is designed to infuse a sense of tension and alertness among the people for the protection of its system, because of concerns over the desertion of soldiers and popular unrest."

This official pointed out that "prompted by the serious prevailing concerns about the collapse of its system, the hardliners in the North Korean Army appear to be superior. Thus, the ROK military authorities are paying keen attention to North Korea's movements, including its military training."

Kim Chong-il Analyzed From Tape Recordings
SK1609115995 Seoul YONHAP in English
1021 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 16 (YONHAP) — A monthly magazine here has revealed taped conversations of North Korea's de facto leader Kim Chong-il, saying it has used the tape to have neuropsychiatrists, sociologists and psychologists analyze his personality.

In a supplement to the October issue distributed to bookstores Saturday, the MONTHLY CHOSON, published by the CHOSON ILBO newspaper, said it had obtained Kim's taped conversations from intelligence authorities.

Film director Sin Sang-ok and his wife-actor Choe Un-hui secretly taped their conversations with Kim between October 1983 and September 1985 and took the tape with them when they defected to the West in 1986 and gave it to the intelligence authorities, the magazine explained.

The magazine edited the tape the Shin couple took out of North Korea and revealed the edited one.

In one of the taped conversations, Kim admitted North Korea's hijacking of the couple from Hong Kong, saying, "it would be natural for you to say you came here for the freedom of creation, instead of saying you were forced to come here."

Kim also noted the defects of North Korea's socialism and criticized North Korea's bureaucracy for its inefficiency.

He admitted the limitation of North Korea's socialist development and the inevitability of adopting an open-door policy and said North Korea had no choice but to postpone the open-door policy because this policy would lead to collapse of North Korea's socialism.

Neuropsychiatry Professor Yi Kun-hu of Ewha Woman's University said, after hearing the tape, that Kim must be a self-contradictory and extrovert person, the magazine said.

And Kang Chol-hwan and two other North Korean defectors said if an ordinary North Korean citizen had related what Kim said about North Korea's socialism, not only he but also his children and grandchildren would have been put into a concentration camp.

If the North Koreans heard this tape, they would get into rage and rise to break down the socialist system, the magazine quoted them as saying.

North, South Scholars Agree on 'Hangul' Keyboard
SK1509135395 Seoul YONHAP in English
1107 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 15 (YONHAP) — South and North Korean scholars have recently agreed to adopt uniform Korean-alphabet computer keyboard and computer terminology for use by both Koreas.

A source at the Korean Language Information Society here said Friday the agreement was reached at the second international symposium on the informational processing of Korean words being held in Yanbian, China.

At the symposium attended by South and North Korean scholars and some Korean-Chinese, the participating scholars decided to finalize a uniform computer "Hangul" keyboard by June next year.

"We will devise a trial keyboard under the principle of using 30 or less Korean characters and of not using the shift key," the source said.

Uniform computer terminology will be determined based on the computer glossaries currently in use in South and North Korea.

Both the uniform keyboard and terminology adopted will be finalized at the third international symposium next year, which then will be recommended to their respective governments for formal use, the source added.

North Supports Bid for Asian Baseball Games*SK1709095795 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
17 Sep 95 p 2**[By Yun Chong-ku from Kurashiki, Japan]*

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea supported the ROK in the vote selecting the venue for the 20th Asia Baseball Games in 1999, which will also serve as the Asia-region preliminary games for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. On 16 September the Asia Baseball Union held its 1995 congress in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture, Japan. Chong Won-tok, vice chairman of the North Korean Baseball Association (and chairman of the Baseball Association of Koreans Residing in Japan), reportedly voted for the ROK at the congress to decide the venue.

North Korea opposed the 1988 Seoul Olympics and has boycotted various international games held in the ROK. North Korea has rejected the ROK in the international sports arena.

Considering this, it is very unusual that North Korea supported the ROK instead of the PRC, which also applied to host the baseball games.

Three countries, the ROK, the PRC, and Taiwan, applied to host the baseball games and 15 countries participated in the secret ballot. The ROK won eight votes and the right to host the games, the PRC won three votes, and Taiwan two votes. Vice Chairman Chong said: "I inquired about Pyongyang's instruction prior to the vote, but was told to make a decision on my own. I would like to lead a North Korean team to participate in the 1999 games if circumstances permit."

Assembly Criticizes PRC, French Nuclear Tests*SK1809073695 Seoul YONHAP in English
0711 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — The National Assembly unanimously passed a resolution on Monday which will formally request that France and China discontinue their nuclear testing.

In the resolution, ruling and opposition lawmakers criticized that recent nuclear tests conducted by the two countries were contrary to the international community's wishes, noting that 175 nations from around the world signed in May the unlimited extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the restraint of nuclear testing.

The house also urged that China and France stop nuclear experiments immediately, that all nuclear countries conclude a total nuclear test ban treaty by the end

of next year and that the government try its best to diplomatically realize these goals.

Students Demonstrate on Kwangju Incident*SK1609231595 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 2103 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 2,000 college students staged demonstrations at various places until late last night [15 September] after participating in the national rally for resolving the issue concerning the 18 May incident [deaths during Kwangju popular uprising in 1980]. Following the rally held at Youido in Seoul, the students gathered at Chongno 2-ka and 3-ka at around 1800 [0900 GMT] and staged a violent demonstration for over an hour, throwing stones and shaking wood sticks at policemen who were firing tear gas at them. The students were demanding the punishment of those responsible for the 18 May incident and the revision of the special law on this issue.

The students then scattered throughout different downtown areas, such as Chongno 5-ka, Tongdaemun, and Ulchiro, staged various demonstrations, and stopped voluntarily at Sogang and Yonsei Universities at around 2130 [1230 GMT].

The police detained four students in the course of containing the demonstrators last night and are now questioning them.

Prior to this, yesterday afternoon, the National Committee for Revealing the Truth of the 18 May Incident and for Inheriting the Spirit of the Kwangju Popular Uprising, along with some 3,000 citizens and students at Youido Square, urged the revision of the special law to reveal the truth of the 18 May incident and punish those responsible for the incident.

NCNP To Submit Bills on Kwangju Uprising*SK1809015595 Seoul YONHAP in English
0122 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — The main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) decided to submit within the week three special bills to the National Assembly which will allow for those involved in the bloody suppression of May 18 Kwangju democratization movement in 1980 to be indicted.

The NCNP made the decision at a workshop it held Sunday at the Seoul Olympic Parktel, where it reaffirmed its policy to push for the passage of bills with the cooperation of other opposition parties in the current regular session of the National Assembly.

The special bills include the "May 18 Special Law," the "Special Prosecutor's Law" and the "Special Law on Statutes of Limitations."

The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office wrapped up its 14-month-long investigation of the insurrection and other charges brought against former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and 56 others last July.

They were allegedly involved in the bloody military suppression of the May 18, 1980, Kwangju citizens' uprising, but the prosecution concluded that it had "no power to prosecute those charged."

The three special bills would introduce a special prosecution system which will allow for strict investigations of those implicated in the case as well as to overrule the prosecution's decision that the statutes of limitations regarding the two former presidents, Chon and No, involved in the May 18 case, have already expired.

Meanwhile, another opposition Democratic Party is actively supporting the special bills, however, the minor opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD), a conservative opposition party, has not yet decided whether it will back them or not.

Catholics Urge Law To Probe Kwangju Uprising

SK1809063495 Seoul YONHAP in English
0503 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — A petition with the support of 123,464 Catholics calling for the enactment of a special law which would provide for the appointment of a special prosecutor empowered to investigate the brutal armed suppression of the Kwangju citizens' uprising for democracy in May 1980 has been announced.

Fathers An Chung-sok, co-representative of the Catholic Priests' Association for Justice, and Im Pyong-tae, chairman of the Kwangju Archdiocese's Justice and Peace Committee, disclosed the petition during a joint press conference held at Myong-tong Cathedral in Seoul Monday morning.

The clergymen said the list, containing 1,907 priests and nuns, 5,314 monastery and convent members and 116,243 other ordinary citizens, was the initial outcome of a signature collection campaign calling for such a law which they launched in 436 churches throughout the 14 dioceses and 112 monasteries and convents across the country in early August.

After the press conference, they called on National Assembly Speaker Hwang Nak-chu at his office and presented the petition, expressing their hope that parliament will draft the law during its current session.

National Assembly To Audit 329 Offices

SK1509100795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0709 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 15 (YONHAP) — The ruling and opposition parties agreed Friday that a total of 329 government offices, local autonomous bodies and state-invested organizations will be inspected by the National Assembly this year.

The bipartisan agreement, reached at a full session of the National Assembly Steering Committee, will be referred to the House plenary session for final endorsement.

The organizations subject to the parliamentary inspection will include the presidential secretary office, Supreme Court and Seoul City Government.

Should that be the number of parliamentary inspections conducted the figure will have decreased by 13 from 342 in 1994.

The number of state agencies to be inspected total 91, local autonomous bodies 29, state-invested organizations 31, and 178 others which require approval from the parliamentary plenary sitting.

By committee, the steering committee will inspect five government organs, the Legislative and Judiciary committees will inspect 35, the Administrative Committee will inspect 11, Finance and Economy will inspect 34, National and Foreign Affairs will inspect 17, Home Affairs 26, National Defense 17, Education 12, Culture, Sports and Information 24, Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries 16, Trade, Industry and Energy 25, Telecommunication, Science and Technology 22, Environment and Labor 25, Health and Welfare 23, Construction and Transportation 34 and the intelligence committee will inspect three.

DLP Leader on Parliamentary Constituency System

SK1509101195 Seoul YONHAP in English
0803 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kwangju, Sept. 15 (YONHAP) — Rep. Kang Sam-chae, secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), said Friday that the party cannot push to change the current parliamentary constituency system at this time.

"The current party opinion is to hold next year's general elections under the current 'small constituency system.' If the opposition parties oppose the change of the constituency system, the DLP cannot single-handedly push for the change," he said.

The small constituency system elects one lawmaker from each electoral district, while the medium or

large constituencies two or three legislators from each electoral district.

He made the remarks while attending the plenary meeting of DLP local council members in South Cholla Province.

"The revision of the constituencies is an issue to be resolved through consultations between ruling and opposition parties," he said.

Meanwhile, he noted some ward heads from opposition parties in Seoul are trying to replace chiefs of "tongs", administrative units smaller than "dongs," which are smaller units than wards.

He worried that the ward heads may use the tong chiefs in next year's general elections.

DLP Chairman Comments on Presidency Candidates

*SK1609051795 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 16 Sep 95 p 2*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ruling party leader Kim Yun-whan said yesterday that the party's potential candidates for presidency are expected to emerge during the general elections next April. The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], Kim said, will vote to select the party's presidential candidate near the end of President Kim Yong-sam's term in office. The ruling party chairman made these remarks at a breakfast meeting sponsored by the Korean Newspaper Editors Association.

The ruling party's presidential candidate had previously been handpicked by the president, who also headed the party. But the tradition was broken when the party selected President Kim as the party's standard-bearer in a vote before the presidential election in December 1992.

Though Rep. Yi Chong-chan, who has now transformed himself into an opposition party leader, withdrew from the nomination race at the last moment, the vote proceeded at the party's national convention. But it is not known whether or not President Kim, whose tenure ends in early 1998, will choose a candidate for the nomination race. Under its new charter, the ruling party is required to select its presidential candidate when 90 days or more are left before the end of the presidential term.

Chairman Kim's remarks came at a time when some party leaders are indicating that they are willing to run in the presidential election slated for December in 1997.

Rep. Choe Hyong-u recently indicated that he is best qualified as the party's candidate when he said the successor to President Kim should come from either

Pusan or its surrounding South Kyongsang Province. Choe, one of President Kim's proteges, is one of the party leaders from the region, Kim's power base.

Before Choe's indication, Vice National Assembly Speaker Yi Han-tong expressed his intention of bidding for the next presidency. The two senior lawmakers, along with Chairman Kim, have been considered in the ruling camp as potential candidates for the party's presidential nominee.

Asked if he will run for the presidency, Kim said he is not considering becoming the head of state based on regional background and declined to elaborate on the matter. But he expressed opposition to early talks in the ruling camp about the selection of the party's presidential candidate.

"The incumbent President is now at the mid-point of his tenure, and I don't think it is a proper time to discuss who will run in the coming presidential election," he said. He reiterated his party's call for a generational change in the nation's political leadership, a political theme generated by President Kim who is seeking to retire two opposition leaders — Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil — from the political arena.

"The generational change, if realized, will contribute in easing acute regional rivalries," he said.

The ruling party leader also ruled out the possibility of a constitutional revision in favor of the cabinet system of government. "It is impossible for the political circle to revise the Constitution to change the government structure because the main opposition National Congress for New Politics has now advocated the current presidential system of government," he said.

The splinter opposition United Liberal Democrats led by Kim Chong-pil is the only political party in support of the cabinet system, under which the prime minister would become head of government while the president would be the ceremonial head of state.

On the issue of the nomination of party candidates to run in the general elections, Chairman Kim said his party will select those who have the best chance of winning the elections.

Referring to the government's relief aid to flood victims of North Korea, he said the dominant view among the people is that it is not necessary for the nation to send relief materials unless North Korea ask for them.

Na Ung-pae Resigns as DLP Chapter Chairman

SK1609020495 Seoul YONHAP in English
0122 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP) — Na Ung-pae, deputy prime minister and national unification minister, declared Saturday he will not run in the forthcoming parliamentary elections slated for next April.

He also tendered resignation as chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] Yongdeungpo-B Chapter in Seoul where he was elected to the National Assembly in the 1992 general elections.

After submitting his resignation to DLP Chairman Kim Yun-hwan, Na told reporters he will strive to solve South and North Korean problems by devoting himself completely to his national unification ministerial post.

Meanwhile, two other incumbent DLP lawmakers — An Chan-hui and Pak Kyong-su — recently declared they would not seek reelection next year.

Finance Ministry Announces Tax Revision Plans

SK1609055295 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 16 Sep 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government will lower a special excise tax imposed on 13 goods to 20 percent from the current 25 percent, starting next year.

It will also change the system of levying transport and special excise taxes on oil to a volume-based method from the present price-based one.

A 15 percent education tax will be imposed on gasoline, light oil and kerosene between 1996 and 2000.

These are the main points of government revisions to laws on special excise, traffic and education taxes disclosed by the Ministry of Finance and Economy yesterday.

The luxury tax on the 13 items will be lowered in consideration of the fact that tax rates in advanced nations are far lower. The 13 items include cars, cameras, watches, air conditioners, jewelry, precious metals, fur and projectors.

It is also designed to narrow the gap between the highest 25 percent special excise tax rate and the lowest 10 percent, the ministry said.

The luxury tax structure will thus be changed into 10 percent, 15 percent and 20 percent from the current 10 percent, 15 percent and 25 percent, it said.

A 10 percent luxury tax is imposed on cosmetics, pianos and soft drinks, while a 15 percent rate is applied to electronic appliances.

The government will also impose a 345-won-per-liter transport tax on gasoline, while levying a 18-won-per-liter special excise tax on kerosene.

Foreign Workers Exceed 1 Percent of Work Force

SK1509095695 Seoul YONHAP in English
0554 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 15 (YONHAP) — The number of foreign workers here exceed 100,000, about 1 percent of South Korea's total workforce, the Labor Ministry said Friday.

Foreign workers with employment visas totaled 6,475, while those working here as "industrial trainees" amounted to 34,931. The number of illegal foreign workers here was estimated at 102,878 as of the end of last July, according to the ministry.

South Korea plans to allow another 20,000 foreign workers to enter the country this year through the industrial trainee system, which the country inaugurated last year to solve the manpower shortage problems of small businesses.

About half of the foreign workers with employment visas are teaching foreign languages at private institutes, followed by those who work in the entertainment industry with 629, professors with 597, technical experts who are teaching technology-related subjects at businesses with 454, researchers with 207, other specialists with 182 and another 1,362 miscellaneous foreign workers.

Among illegal workers, Chinese accounted for 25,970 including 20,722 ethnic Koreans, followed by Filipinos with 8,476, Bangladeshis with 5,533, Pakistanis with 2,217, Nepalese with 2,222, Thais with 1,653 and another 15,201 miscellaneous.

Burma**Khin Nyunt on 'Interference' in Internal Affairs**

*BK1509131195 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network
in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the National Committee and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), attended and delivered an address at the opening of Refresher Course No. 1 for Red Cross executives held at the Institute of Civil Service's Ondaw Hall in Hlegu at 0900 today. The opening ceremony was attended by ministers, deputy ministers, and responsible personnel.

First, Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said in his address that, if we analyze the national policy and political, economic, and social objectives of the state for the emergence of a newly developed modern nation, it can be seen that this policy and these objectives are aimed at cooperation among the national brethren through mutual understanding and friendship. One can also see that the essence of efforts to implement this task is based on a national and patriotic spirit, on the national brethren's strong patriotism, and on the conviction that the nation's strength comes from within. [passage omitted]

He says Myanmar [Burma], as a member of the world community, always supports cooperation between the International Red Cross organizations and the Myanmar Red Cross Society, in accordance with a tradition of cooperation in UN and international humanitarian organization [apyepye saingyar sedana shin aphwe asee] movements, which are international movements that will benefit mankind. You can see that some countries are facing internal instability and problems today that are difficult to resolve because some large countries and parts of some organizations are using their influence on some international organizations inappropriately and are interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. At the same time, some organizations, while exploiting the name of international humanitarian organizations, are also interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and are engaging in provocative activities. They are currently using the same method against Myanmar also, and there is increased interference in Myanmar's internal affairs. [passage omitted]

The opening ceremony ended successfully at 0930. SLORC Secretary-1 Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt left the Institute of Civil Service after cordially greeting the trainees.

Foreign Firms' Investment in Gold Mining Invited

*BK1609163095 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF
MYANMAR in English 12 Sep 95 p 3*

[Article by Kyaw Kayw: "Inviting Foreign Experts For Gold Mining"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The State Law and Order Restoration Council has adopted twelve objectives that include four economic objectives. One of the four economic objectives is to invite national and foreign capital and expertise for economic development.

Invitations have been issued to foreign firms desirous of exploring and exploiting gold where geological formations indicate gold deposits.

These foreign experts are to study sixteen blocks with possibility of gold deposits and report within one year on feasibility of commercial exploitation. Joint ventures with the Government will than be discussed on the basis of the reports. A number of foreign firms have responded to this invitation and are now in the process of negotiating joint venture agreements.

The No 2 Mining Industry of the Ministry of Mines is at present operating four Special Metal (2) gold projects of which the Kyaukpahtoe Project appears to possess the greatest potential.

Kyaukpahtoe Gold Project is at the foot of Kyaukpahtoe Hill of Banbwagon Village about 23 miles east of Kawlin in Sagaing Division. It can be reached from the Mandalay-Myitkyina motor road.

Gold deposits there were first discovered by villagers in July 1981. Township authorities reported this discovery to higher authorities and the Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department began tunnelling there in August 1982.

According to preliminary surveys there are 6.04 million tons of ore with 3.00 PPM (Parts per million) gold content. Commercial exploitation in November 1983 in open pit mining operations [were] supervised by Myanmar experts.

At the beginning gold was extracted by crushing the ores and catching gold dust with mercury. Raw gold was then refined by means of electric currents.

Later on an agreement for a joint venture between No 2 Mining Industry and the Invest Import Company of Yugoslavia on 2 June 1987 to build a refinery at Kyaukpahtoe. The Refinery was built in 1992. Gold extraction then began in 1992-93.

At the beginning gold was extracted by smelting and later the international CIP [expansion unknown] process was used.

Between 1982-83 and 1989-90, 153,945 Troy Ounces of raw gold was obtained from Kyaukpahtoe. And between 1992-93, up till July of 1995-96, 148,673 Troy Ounces of Gold was obtained through CIP processing.

Arrangements are now being made to produce 19,290 Troy Ounces of international standard pure hold.

The Phayaungtaung Gold Project was started as an open pit operation in Shweingyi Township in Mandalay Division in 1985-86. Experimental tests indicate that there are 3.2 million tons of ore with 4.9 PPM gold content. This Project produced 5,161 Troy Ounces of raw gold between 1985-86 and 1995-96 July.

The Thayetkhon Gold Project in Pyinmana Township in Mandalay Division was initiated in 1987. Tests conducted at this Project indicate that veins with gold content can be found along the Paunglaung River valley. Open pit mining operations in these areas produced 2,270 Troy Ounces of unrefined gold between 1987-88 and 1995-96.

The Shwegyin Gold Project is located at Letnetkyikon east of Shwegyin Town in Shwegyin Township. Gold panning operations began in 1987 along Shwegyin Chaung, Madama Chaung and other chaungs [creeks]. 454 Troy Ounces of raw gold was obtained from these operations between 1987-88 and 1995-96.

Invitations have been issued to foreign specialist firms to work these fields and other fields that may be found in other blocks.

Conflict in MTA, SLORC Involvement Viewed

BK1709144995 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Muangmai, 8 September 1995—The breakaway MTA [Muang Tai Army] group, renamed the Shan [State] National Army [SSNA], is being forced into beginning open armed clashes with its erstwhile mother-organisation, reported a source coming into Thailand.

Unlike the DKBO [Democratic Karen Buddhist Organization], the breakaway Karen group which enthusiastically cooperated with SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] forces during their campaign against the KNU [Karen National Union], the SSNA of Major Karnyord during its three-month long separate existence from the MTA has carefully refrained from starting a civil war with the MTA, among whom are the mutineers' close friends, relatives and life long comrades. Above all, the presence of Gunjade, Karnyord's most respected ex-superior in the vicinity proves an almost tangible deterrent. Instead, it has turned to the tac-

tic of persuading the dissatisfied soldiers to desert their units, which has had some success.

However, the ambitious SLORC commanders have not been impressed with Karnyord's exploits, and have so far refused to bankroll his psychological operations, except to print and distribute his anti-Khun Sa pamphlets. "Everytime he turns toward the SLORC for funds and arms", says the source, "they keep asking him when his military operations will start. So far, he has received only K [Kyat, Burmese currency] 1 million from General Khin Nyunt, who sent his aide, Col San Pwint, to talk to him in his stead."

In the meantime, the MTA, under the new leadership, has made a series of concessions to Karnyord's demands, which includes the recall of controversial commanders Yiapmong and Kaw-hat, collective leadership and an end to summary executions without trial. It also promises amnesty and reinstatements for all returnees including Karnyord. Many prominent Shan individuals and agencies are also mediating in order to head off an armed conflict, which once begun would go out of control and play directly into the hands of SLORC.

Everything seems to rest on the decision of Karnyord, who is badly in need of raw cash to upkeep his splinter army. The SLORC does not seem worried, so says the source; "As far as it is concerned, Karnyord will be redubbed a drug trafficker if he decides to go back to the MTA. And if he does attack the MTA, the issue of 'who's the traitor and who's the real freedom fighter' will throw great confusion among the populace and the resistance. And both outcomes are fine with the SLORC."

Potential of Yadana Natural Gas Project Viewed

BK1609162195 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 13 Sep 95 p 3

[Article by Aung Moe Hein: "Yadana Natural Gas Project"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The State Law and Order Restoration Council is leaving no stone unturned to develop and modernise the country. Energy sector plays an important role in national development. Economic development is the key to development of any nation and the State Law and Order Restoration Council is resorting to all means to develop the national economy. The Ministry of Energy has been implementing projects for development of energy and the following is a brief account of the Ministry's Offshore Natural Gas Projects.

The location of Block M-5 and M-6 is in the Gulf of Martaban at 15 degree North latitude and 95 degree East longitude. Explorations made in 1982 revealed SDA

[expansion unknown] conditions with 2.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. But no action was then taken because the cost of extraction was very high.

In 1992, during the rule of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, an agreement was signed between the Myanmar [Burma] Oil and Gas Enterprise and the Total Oil Company of France to survey, develop and produce the Yadana Natural Gas Field.

The Total Company conducted seismic survey in Blocks M-5 and M-6 for 7884 km [kilometers] and bored four test wells. Tests of results indicated deposits of 6.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas of which 5.7 trillion cubic feet were exploitable.

Arrangements have been made to produce 650 million cubic feet of natural gas a day from this field of which 525 million cubic feet will be sold to Thailand and 125 million cubic feet used at home.

Gas will be supplied to Thailand in a 36 inch diameter pipe running 360 km under the sea and 60 km on land. Natural gas will be transferred, to Thailand on the border.

For this purpose a Contract had been signed on February 1995 between the Myanmar Oil and Natural Gas Enterprise and the PTT [Petroleum Authority of Thailand] of Thailand. The agreement is for 30 years and sale will begin in July 1998. Gas will be sold at three US dollars for one million BTU [British Thermal Units] of gas. Price for further sales will be calculated [on] prevailing conditions.

Over US dollars 52 million would have to be invested in development of the Gas Field and US dollars 560 million would have to be invested in laying the pipe line. The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, the Total Company of France, the Unocal Oil Company of US and the PTTEP [PTT's exploration arm] of Thailand will take part in this venture. Myanmar will earn 4900 million US dollars in thirty years from sale of gas and this is about 450,000 US dollars a day.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Prime Minister Meets Bosnian Foreign Minister

*BK1509093995 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia
in English 0800 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed hopes that the Bosnian Government will utilize all resources available at its disposal toward ensuring complete peace in the Balkan state. The prime minister told Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey, who called on him today, that more needed to be done

to reach successful negotiations although several successes achieved so far had provided breathing space to the Bosnians.

Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan, the Foreign Ministry's undersecretary for Africa, West Asia, and the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], briefing reporters on the meeting in Kuala Lumpur, said the prime minister also viewed the current move by the Bosnian Government to gain support from everyone — and not just the OIC — as wise. In this context, he said Dr. Mahathir hoped that the existing cooperation between Bosnia and Croatia should be continued.

Sacirbey is in Malaysia for a special meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina organized by the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia, which ended yesterday.

Government To Assist Bosnia With Reconstruction

*BK1609094395 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia
in English 0800 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysia will help Bosnia-Herzegovina in the military field or in its reconstruction of the country under the Assistance Mobilization Group, AMG, set up by the recent meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, Contact Group.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said being a prime mover in the formation of AMG, Malaysia will extend its cooperation and support to efforts to bring peace to Bosnia. The OIC Contact Group, in its meeting in Kuala Lumpur last Thursday, agreed to set the AMG to help coordinate military, economic, and humanitarian aids to Bosnia.

Trade Minister Criticizes Tokyo EAEC Proposal

*BK1509044695 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 15 Sep 95 p 17*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, sharply criticised Japan yesterday for proposing that the East Asia Economic Caucus [EAEC], proposed by Kuala Lumpur and endorsed by ASEAN, should include Australia and New Zealand.

Australia and New Zealand are not part of East Asia so the proposal to bring the two into the caucus "just doesn't make sense," she said.

Although some sections of the Japanese bureaucracy are said to be in favour of the caucus, the Japanese Government has refused to participate, fearing the proposed group would offend the United States.

Japan's latest proposal to include Australia and New Zealand was made in Brunei last week when International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto met his ASEAN counterparts.

Datuk Sri Rafidah quoted him as saying the East Asian group would be acceptable to Japan if Australia and New Zealand were also admitted.

"Why does Japan, an East Asian country, complicate things?" she asked yesterday. She added that the EAEC should be set up first among East Asian countries and then additional members could be considered.

Malaysia has been spearheading the attempt to invite Japan, China and South Korea to join the seven ASEAN members in the proposed caucus.

The Malaysian minister was replying to questions at a seminar on trade opportunities in her country. Her questioner was Hiroyuki Maruko, president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Thailand. He said later he was in favour of the EAEC, but in his question, he described the proposal as putting "Japan in a rather delicate situation."

The United States has been the most vocal critic of the EAEC, accusing Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed of trying to draw a dividing line down the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The Americans prefer the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group which spans the Pacific.

In Brunei last week and again in Bangkok yesterday, Datuk Sri Rafidah accused critics of being unreasonable for suggesting that the EAEC would divide APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation].

APEC already contains a number of smaller groups such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relation and the ASEAN Free Trade Area. None of these have been criticised for dividing APEC, she said.

"The moment you talk about East Asia where Japan is in and America is out, something comes up," she complained yesterday.

Datuk Sri Rafidah argued that the EAEC would remain nothing more than a "loose consultative forum" for dealing with the increasing number of issues arising from the closer integration of the region's economies.

"We in East Asia know full well (that) where things are happening is in East Asia," she said.

She also complained that APEC was being pushed into a grouping that is more structured than the original intention of a loose, consultative forum. For example, APEC is now seriously considering lowering trade

barriers between its members, a proposal that Malaysia has always insisted is non-binding on APEC members.

Canadian Minister Discusses Bilateral Trade

BK1509135795 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Sep 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed [13 September] — Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps said today the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (Apec) could be used as a forum to discuss long-range transboundary pollution impacts.

Since most of the pollution was a result of industrial and manufacturing activities, such a discussion could be fruitful, said Copps, who is also the Canadian Environment Minister.

But any such discussions should clearly be on the basis that sustainable economic development should not be affected, she said. Copps, who arrived here yesterday for a four-day working visit, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also the Finance Minister, had expressed interest in the concept of sustainable development during her courtesy call on the latter at the Finance Ministry.

"Anwar was interested in the post of Commissioner for Sustainable Development which will be introduced in Canada soon after the legislation is passed."

The commissioner will act as an ombudsman or a "supercop" to police government expenditure of taxpayers' money, with at least four Government organisations or ministries being fully audited annually.

Copps said Anwar also expressed interest in the Canadian political experience in introducing the Value Added Tax (VAT), which had led to the toppling of the ruling party there.

However, she declined to comment on what Anwar's plans were for introducing the VAT here in the form of the Sales and Service Tax.

During the meeting with Anwar, Copps said the possible agenda for Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien's visit to Malaysia, scheduled for January next year, was also discussed.

The other topic of discussion was the possible linking of the United Nations University — to be established in Canada — to Universiti [University] Malaya here.

Earlier, at a lunch hosted by the Malaysia-Canada Business Council (MCBC), Copps has expressed hope that bilateral trade between Malaysia and Canada could double within the next three years.

The bilateral trade last year was RM [Malaysian ringgit] 2.7 billion, said Copps, who also launched the MCBC's Internet World Wide Web home-page at the function.

Copps said sectors in which bilateral trade and investment could grow significantly were that of telecommunications, satellite-based services and environmental technology.

She also said that Canada had adopted an open skies policy, which would lead to Malaysia Airlines introducing twice weekly flights to Vancouver via Taipei in November.

On the Canadian stand on East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), Copps said that it was still new and expressed confidence that the Malaysian-inspired forum could become a significant force in the future.

She also said that Apec and EAEC should be clear in their directions so as not to stray too far from their original aims.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Leaves for Medical Treatment in Beijing

BK1609100995 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk and the queen of the Kingdom of Cambodia left Phnom Penh at 0800 this morning for Beijing, PRC, for medical treatment.

This year the king [passage indistinct] strong and busy in his work. He said that his cancer has been completely cured by Chinese doctors. He cannot, however, see clearly with both of his eyes. This requires that he go to a Beijing hospital for treatment. According to plans, His Majesty the King and the queen will stay in Beijing for 20 days and return to Phnom Penh in early October.

Australian Army Chief Meets General Ke Kimyan

BK1509135695 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 15 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Peyatro]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Minister Tea Chamrat expressed the desire for Australia to provide support and assistance to the national defense sector, which is in great need of funds. This is very different from the armed forces of other countries, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Our country has airfields but no aircraft. It has a sea but no ships. We have troops but no trucks to carry them. At times, taxis are hired to transport troops. The Army uses commercial radio equipment for communications.

The commander of the Australian Army immediately held a closed door meeting at the General Staff Office with General Ke Kimyan and the Navy and Air Force commanders. It is thought that the two commanders discussed Australian assistance and examined Army structures and preparations to reduce and demobilize troops from now until 1997.

According to reports, Baker accepted the Armed Forces commanders' proposal for continued training assistance. In the first phase, Baker agreed to select a number of instructors for training in Australia. As for other matters, he will discuss them with his government. If it agrees, Australia will continue to provide other assistance to the Khmer Royal Armed Forces.

It should be noted that the Australia Army has given a military hospital in Siem Reap Province to the 4th Military Region. It has also assisted in the construction of a guerrilla school for the General Staff Office and provided a number of engineers to teach and train army personnel in the field. This has also included mine-related activities.

Khmer Rouge Denounce Meeting

BK1509114895 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Australia sent Australian Defense Force Chief John Baker to Cambodia on 12 September. What is the purpose of this guy's trip?

He came to solve the problem of the defeats suffered by communist Vietnam, the communist Vietnamese puppets, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the alliance, and the two heads, who have repeatedly lost in a wholesale manner.

How can the Australian defense force chief and his subordinates resolve the problem? They can do nothing. The only thing they did was to pressure the two heads to continue intensifying the war in order to kill more of the Cambodian nation and its people. Thus Baker came to Cambodia as chief race-exterminating assassin. He has exterminated the Aboriginal race in Australia; now he comes here seeking to eradicate the Cambodian race. The Cambodian people, however, can never allow Australia to carry out this extermination with impunity. They have already sharpened punji stakes in their readiness to drag these people back to Australia by their noses.

The Cambodian nation and people do not want to oppose the Australian nation and people; they only oppose the warmongering brigands.

Ranariddh Receives Former Thai Foreign Minister

BK1609135295 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received Sitthi Sawetsila, former foreign minister and adviser to the Thai king, at his residence on the afternoon of 15 September.

On this occasion, Prince Krompreah thanked the Kingdom of Thailand for its efforts to find peace for the Kingdom of Cambodia. The prince also said that he is very pleased with Thai investments in the Kingdom of Cambodia, particularly by the Sitthi Company. He has given his agreement to the Sitthi Company of Thailand to open a telecommunication work site, in particular to lay underground cable for the cable television needed by the Cambodian people.

Sitthi Sawetsila said that the Sitthi Company can accommodate 15 Cambodian students for studies in the Kingdom of Thailand. The Sitthi Company has also provided assistance to the agriculture sector with 20 tons of corn for animal feed. Sitthi further said that a delegation will be coming in the future to study rural development in Cambodia.

Khmer Rouge Cite Attack on Moung Township

BK1809021695 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Preliminary reports from the Moung-Pursat battlefield say that the army and people cooperated in attacking Moung Township on 15 September. We destroyed a railroad bridge and a bridge on Route 5. Fuller reports will be given later.

Government Troops 'Surrounding' Nuon Paet Group

BK1809035495 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 17 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Peyatro]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nuon Paet, the Khmer Rouge commander in Phnum Voar [Kampot Province] who was involved in the killing of three foreigners and who fled the area after his subordinates surrendered to the government, is now surrounded at Taken Kaoh Sla, one of his former bases. It should be recalled that Nuon Paet managed to escape the first campaign to capture him, leaving the corpses of the three foreigners behind.

Colonel Miech Man, deputy commander of the Kep-Bok Kou Operational Subzone, disclosed late this week that

his forces are surrounding the band led by Nuon Paet in the Taken Kaoh Sla area, about 30 km from Phnum Voar. His troops are keeping an eye on them day and night.

Col. Man added that Nuon Paet, accompanied by a band of over 30 men, is suffering severely from an old wound and can no longer run. The Khmer Rouge elements are in a dangerous situation because their contacts have been completely severed by elements of the Kep-Bok Kou Operational Subzone. They have been totally deprived of food and medicine.

The colonel added that the Khmer Rouge band used to carry out activities to cut the railway tracks in areas west of the Kampot provincial town, adjoining the municipalities of Bok Kou and Kep. They blew up two bridges at Trapeang L'peou and Prek Choar on 27 August, for example. They can no longer do this because they are totally besieged. Now tourists can go to Kep or Bok Kou whenever they wish. They can even go up Bok Kou Hill at midnight; 100 percent security is guaranteed.

Col. Miech Man went on to say: We have a good opportunity now because Nuon Paet's band is surrounded and weakened by a lack of medicine and food. We have forbidden villagers from trekking into the jungle. If the General Staff gives the order, we will smash them right away.

Indonesia

Australian Prime Minister Visits

Meets With President Suharto

BK1809030295 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1049 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Denpasar, 17 Sep (ANTARA)—Minister/State Secretary Mardiono said in Badung, Bali on 17 September that President Suharto will soon appoint a new candidate as ambassador to Australia, after dropping retired Lieutenant General H.B.L. Mantiri as the ambassador-designate to Australia.

Describing to reporters the outcome of a two-hour meeting between President Suharto and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating at the Bali Cliff Resort Hotel, Mardiono said that the head of state ordered that the selection of the new candidate be carried out in an appropriate manner.

Mardiono said: "Preparation for selecting the new ambassadorial candidate will be carried out in an appropriate manner, so that the appointment and placement of

the candidate in our neighboring country will not create any undesired effect."

He explained, however, that the previous appointment of Mantiri was actually agreed to by the Keating administration some time ago. Mantiri's appointment was canceled due to the disagreement expressed by only a small group of people in Australia.

Responding to questions concerning Keating's comment on President Suharto's willingness to select a new candidate for the ambassadorial appointment, Murdiono said firmly: "The prime minister said he would accept the decision, regardless of who was appointed."

According to Murdiono, the president told his guest, who arrived in Bali on Saturday night, that a sovereign nation has the right to appoint anyone it wants as ambassador. President Suharto, on the other hand, also said that a country has the right to accept or reject any candidate appointed as an ambassador to its country.

When asked about the situation during the meeting between the two leaders, particularly after the recent flag-burning incidents in Australia, Murdiono said: "In my opinion, the recent incidents did not have any impact on the meeting."

According to Murdiono, the president said: "We should not be easily influenced only by groups of people who wish to see that our bilateral relations do not run on an even keel."

Murdiono said that in addition to discussing the appointment of a new ambassador to Australia, the two leaders also discussed important efforts to improve bilateral relations.

Improving bilateral relations through meetings between officials, businessmen, and the people themselves were cited as examples.

Murdiono also said that the meeting, which was scheduled to last for only 90 minutes, was extended to two hours because the two leaders also discussed issues in connection with the upcoming APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] economic ministers meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Osaka, Japan, in November 1995.

He said: "The two leaders agreed that the upcoming Osaka meeting should be successful and that it should act as a follow-up to the first APEC meeting held at Blake Island in the United States in 1993 and to the Bogor meeting held in 1994." APEC was formed in 1989 as a result of an Australian proposal.

Keating arrived at the Bali Cliff Resort Hotel at 1055 local time or 0955 West Indonesia Time and was welcomed by the head of state, who was accompanied by

Minister/State Secretary Murdiono and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. The head of state then requested a group photograph be taken with his guest.

The president suggested that his guest appreciate the scenic view of the Indian Ocean. Reporters and television crews used the opportunity to take pictures of the group against the scenic background.

Keating attended a meeting of the South Pacific countries at Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, prior to his arrival in Bali.

Raises Human Rights Issue

*BK1709124295 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 1100 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's Prime Minister Paul Keating says he raised human rights abuses in East Timor and Irian Jaya during the two-hour meeting with Indonesia's President Suharto in Bali today. Mr. Keating said that Indonesia's enormous achievements have been diminished by the issue of East Timor. From Bali, Michael Maher reports:

[Begin recording] [Maher] In a meeting which focused primarily on bilateral issues, Mr. Keating said he and President Suharto discussed the matter of human rights in East Timor and Irian Jaya. While refusing to elaborate on the president's position, Mr. Keating told his host that Indonesia's image has suffered as a result of events in the former Portuguese colony.

[Keating] The enormous achievement here of the development of this economy and society, and the pluralism of it, the cultural diversity of it, it has always been diminished by the reflections from Timor. [end recording]

Commentary Evaluates Visit

*BK1809051295 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia
Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Australian Government will accept whoever President Suharto appoints as the Republic of Indonesia's next ambassador to Australia. This was one of the decisions reached during the Suharto-Paul Keating talks held in Denpasar on Sunday [17 September].

Recounting the talks between the two leaders, Minister/State Secretary Murdiono said the other problems that have affected relations — the burning of the red and white [Indonesian] flag, the East Timor issue, and the action by Indonesian industrialists to boycott all imports from that country [Australia] — were not considered conspicuous issues. President Suharto and

Prime Minister Paul Keating agreed that the exchange of visits by officials of the two governments is far more important. Among other things, Prime Minister Paul Keating acknowledged that it is good that Vietnam has joined ASEAN.

Indonesia had been facing a problem in connection with the appointment of its new ambassador to Australia. Jakarta abandoned the proposal to appoint retired Lieutenant General H.B.L. Mantiri as its new ambassador to replace Sabam Siagian. One reason given by the Foreign Ministry, among others, was that Indonesia did not want H.B.L. Mantiri to become the victim of a political campaign. This issue affected Indonesia-Australia relations, which became somewhat strained. This was followed by incidents in which the red and white flag was burned in several Australian cities. Relations between the two neighboring countries thus remained questionable.

If we closely observe Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans' attitude toward Indonesia-Australia relations, we will surely see that he is indifferent toward making efforts to improve the strained relations that have been caused by Australia itself. If that attitude persists, then the Australians — who are still trying to find their true identity as Westerners living in Asia — need to understand the culture and political traditions of their neighbors.

Paul Keating's attitude toward the appointment of Indonesia's ambassador to his country could be evaluated as a truly positive gesture. Since becoming prime minister, Paul Keating has visited Indonesian five times. This is frequent compared to President Suharto, who has never visited Australia. Thus, it is evident that Keating's good intentions are not fully supported by his deputies and his people, who should undertake concrete actions.

Relations With Australia Termed 'Still Close'

*LD1609124495 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 1100 GMT 16 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says his country is yet to nominate a new ambassador for Australia. However, on the eve of a meeting between Australia's Prime Minister Paul Keating and President Suharto, Mr. Alatas described relations between Jakarta and Canberra as still close. Michael Maher reports:

[Maher] Mr. Alatas told reporters in Jakarta that for the time being, no thought had been given to who Indonesia's next ambassador to Australia would be. Jakarta withdrew the nomination of General Herman Mantiri in July following a storm in Australia over remarks the general made about East Timor.

While Mr. Alatas said there had been some worrisome incidents in the Australia-Indonesia relationship lately, he stated that basically cooperation between the two countries was good and still close. Prime Minister Keating and President Suharto will be meeting on the resort island of Bali tomorrow for talks which are expected to focus on the improvement of bilateral ties as well as the forthcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit in Japan. Michael Maher, Bali.

Norwegian Prime Minister Pays Official Visit

*BK1809043095 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia
Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Suharto will officially welcome Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace at 0945 [0245 GMT] today. The Norwegian prime minister and her husband (Arnold Olaf) Brundtland began an official visit to Indonesia on 16 September. They visited Yogyakarta first. During their stay in Yogyakarta, the Norwegian visitors visited Prambanan and Borobudur Temples and were feted by Yogyakarta Governor Sri Paku Alam.

After the welcoming ceremony, the Norwegian prime minister is scheduled to hold private talks with President Suharto at Merdeka Palace. A parallel ministerial meeting on economic issues will also be held. The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry will host a luncheon for Mrs. Brundtland today. In the afternoon, she will lay a wreath at the Kalibata Heroes Cemetery, hold talks with the state minister for research and technology, and pay a courtesy call on Vice President Try Sutrisno. In the evening, President Suharto will host an official banquet for her and her entourage at the State Palace.

Daily Urges Permanent UNSC Seat for Jakarta

*BK1509114295 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
15 Sep 95 p 4*

[Editorial: "Time to Win Permanent Membership in the United Nations Security Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali released an annual report on Monday, 11 September, which is scheduled to be formally announced on the first day of the UN General Assembly session on Tuesday, 19 September. The UN secretary general's 133-page report touches on a variety of rapidly changing international issues that are relevant to a review of roles at the United Nations, which is commemorating its 50th anniversary this year.

At the core of the report is a reminder that surprises everyone. He stresses that the United Nations' current position is being threatened and that this could irreparably damage the United Nations as a mechanism for progress.

The content of the report portrays the United Nations as an organization with wide-ranging duties, and it should continue to develop to face global changes. The report also laments that the United Nations is finding it more difficult to mediate conflicts in foreign countries, even though those involved in the conflicts are aware of the significance of the organization's peace missions.

The UN secretary general says, however, that the damage can be avoided if three immediate problems are settled. "First, the United Nations' safety and integrity must be respected in the former Yugoslavia and in Somalia, Angola, and other trouble spots. When lightly armed peacekeepers or unarmed aid workers on humanitarian missions are threatened, taken hostage, harmed, or even killed, the world must act to prevent such intolerable behavior," Butrus-Ghali said.

Second, the United Nations' financial crisis should be overcome, because many UN members have not paid their dues. "Second, the financial situation of the organization should be placed on an adequate and sustainable footing. Calls for the United Nations to become more effective under conditions of financial penury make no sense," he said.

He said that, because of delays in dues payments, UN members owed the organization a total of \$3.9 billion as of August 10, including \$858.2 million for the regular budgets for 1995 and previous years and \$3 billion for peacekeeping operations.

Because of members' delays in paying their compulsory dues to the United Nations, Butrus-Ghali says that the function of the organization he leads is akin to a "fire department" that is short of equipment and that is being dispatched to several places to put out raging fires. The irony that the United States owes the largest debt of UN contributions, in the amount of \$1.18 billion, should be noted.

The third immediate problem facing the United Nations, and which should be resolved to protect its existence, is the shortage of development funds for poor countries. The world can only expect poverty and new conflicts to emerge when funds for development in poor countries are insufficient.

These three complicated problems have made it difficult for the United Nations to perform its duties in the post Cold-War era. Bipolarism created by the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union made the world relatively stable, thus making it easy for the

United Nations to play its role as mediator in seeking world peace.

Several international politicians say that bipolarity was replaced by unipolarity, with the United States as the sole superpower after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Other politicians predict that the current development is indicative of the emergence of multipolarism, in which there will be more than two centers of power represented by large countries or regions.

No conclusion or certainty can be established from the two phenomena. All experts agree, however, that the two phenomena have created a new development. The world has become very unstable for the first time since World War II.

The instability has resulted in two dangers: the outbreak of interethnic conflicts in most parts of Africa and the former Yugoslavia, and the reemergence of traditional international distrust, which has been manifested lately in regional disputes in the Asia-Pacific region.

The spread of interethnic conflicts and regional disputes have made the role of the United Nations more complicated, particularly the United Nations Security Council [UNSC], which is busier monitoring peacekeeping missions in all parts of the world. The UNSC permanent members are comprised of five countries (the United States, Russia, China, France, and Britain), and 10 non-permanent members, including Indonesia, which was UNSC chairman in August.

One of the topics discussed throughout this year is that of increasing the UN's role in the post Cold-War era by restructuring the UNSC. This could be done by increasing the number of permanent and nonpermanent members. The objective is to make the members representative of countries and to protect their interests in the post Cold-War era.

It is almost certain that Germany and Japan will become new permanent UNSC members, due to the considerable role they play in political and economic affairs in Europe and in the Asia-Pacific region respectively. We notice that, apart from Germany and Japan, several other countries will be given UNSC seats so that the total number of members will increase from 15 to 20 or 21 countries.

During her visit to Jakarta last week, Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, noted Indonesia's increasing importance in the Asia-Pacific region (because of its role in ASEAN and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) and in the international community (as the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement). She also conveyed a letter from President Clinton to President Suharto asking for Indonesian support for the UN

reform, especially to protect the United Nations from the three immediate problems cited by the UN secretary general.

Albright said that we should be proud of Indonesia's foreign policy. Therefore, is it not appropriate to expect Indonesia to gain a permanent seat thanks to the success of the country's free and active foreign policy?

Laos

Thai Finance Minister, Delegation Begin Visit

BK1609121695 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation Minister of Finance Dr. Saisomphon Phomvihon of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], Dr. Surakiat Sathianthai, Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Thailand, and his delegation including a team of more than 50 Thai businessmen arrived in Laos on the morning of 15 September through the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge for an official visit.

The Thai delegation was welcomed by Dr. Saisomphon Phomvihon, minister of finance; Bousabong Souvannavong, governor of the Bank of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; and high-ranking officials of the Lao Finance Ministry and agencies concerned.

At 1000 of the same day, the Thai and Lao Finance Ministry delegations held a meeting at the Lanxang Hotel. On the occasion, Saisomphon Phomvihon, acting on behalf of the LPDR Government, informed the Thai delegation about Laos' current socioeconomic development, investment, and flourishing international cooperation especially the cooperation with Thailand. Dr. Surakiat also informed the Lao counterpart of the socioeconomic development in Thailand.

Moreover, the two sides also exchanged views on their improving of economic and financial cooperation and the ties between the two ministries.

The visit marks the early stage of relations between the two ministries of Laos and Thailand. The Thai Finance Ministry delegation is scheduled to be in Laos for two days before returning home on 16 September.

At 1500 of the same day, Dr. Surakiat led the Thai delegation to call on Phao Bounnaphon, minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction, to discuss the construction of a road from Ho Kham to Lak Hok, Route No. 9, and Luang Prabang Airport, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

Later at 1600, the Thai delegation called on Soulivong Dalavong, minister of industry and handicrafts. Soulivong Dalavong asked the Thai side to push for

the quick completion of purchase contracts of various electricity projects. These agreements to buy electricity from Laos have not yet been signed except for the one on the Nam Ngum project.

In the evening, Dr. Saisomphon Phomvihon hosted a dinner reception in honor of Dr. Surakiat and his delegation.

Offer Financial Support, Loan

BK1709135695 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has offered financial support for the construction of another Thai-Lao friendship bridge across the Mekong River.

The offer was made by Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai, who led a Thai delegation to Laos on Friday.

The second Thai-Lao friendship bridge will link Mukdahan Province in northeastern Thailand with Savannakhet in Laos.

Mr. Surakiat also offered a long-term soft loan to Laos for the construction of a road linking Thailand and Laos with Danang Port in Vietnam.

During the visit, Laos was told about Thailand's move to set up an Indochina fund to help develop Indochinese countries. Mr. Surakiat said the Indochina fund would offer soft loans to Thailand's neighboring countries for use in building major infrastructure facilities. He stressed the Thai Government's policy of supporting Indochinese countries to become members of ASEAN, so that there would be close economic integration in this region.

Laos asked Thailand to increase its assistance to Laos in human resource development and consider reducing its import tariff on certain products from Laos.

Philippines

Embassy in UAE To Appeal Maid's Sentence

BK1709120895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1137 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 17 (AFP)—The Philippines embassy and lawyers on Sunday mapped out strategy to appeal the death sentence against a Filipina maid found guilty of murdering her employer.

"We will study the decision very thoroughly. We will point out the errors," Philippine Ambassador Roy Seneres told AFP by telephone from the embassy in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

An Islamic court in the oasis city of Al-Ain on Saturday found Sarah Balabagan, 16, guilty of the premeditated murder of her Emirati employer, Mohammad Abdallah Baloushi.

It found no evidence to support Balabagan's testimony that she stabbed him with the knife he allegedly used to rape her.

The verdict was delivered at a retrial ordered by UAE President Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan who annulled the same court's decision in June to jail her for seven years for manslaughter.

The court on June 26 also awarded Balabagan compensation after concluding that Baloushi had raped her.

Her lawyer Mohammad al-Amin said he would probably file an appeal within two days although he was still waiting for a transcript of the verdict delivered by the court in Al-Ain.

Under court rules, he has 15 days to file an appeal.

Seneres said lawyers at the embassy and Amin were "putting their heads together" to map out a defense strategy. "We will do our best to formulate a solid appeal."

If the move in the Court of Appeals at Al-Ain fails, Balabagan's lawyers can take their case to the Federal High Court in Abu Dhabi, Amin said.

Seneres said Saturday: "If, after exhausting all judicial remedies, justice still eluded Sarah, then we would appeal to the president of the United Arab Emirates for a pardon."

Philippine President Fidel Ramos appealed earlier this year to Shaykh Zayed for a pardon or clemency. In the wake of Saturday's verdict, Ramos ordered diplomats to file an appeal immediately.

Balabagan's lawyers and Baloushi's family, which had demanded the death sentence since the beginning, filed separate appeals following the June 26 verdict, but the moves were moot after a retrial was ordered.

The defense called for Balabagan's acquittal, arguing she had defended herself against a rape.

But the court in Al-Ain had heard "new" testimony showing "there was no sperm found in her vagina," presiding judge Ahmad al-Tatwani told journalists after Saturday's proceedings.

The judge said Balabagan may have wanted to murder Baloushi because she resented the fact he had complained about her work to the recruiting agency.

Apart from the seven-year jail term based upon the original conviction, judges in the first trial ordered

Balabagan to pay 150,000 dirhams (40,000 dollars) in "blood money" to Baloushi's family.

But it also ordered the dead man's estate pay Balabagan 100,000 dirhams (27,000 dollars) in compensation for rape.

Ramos Orders Airport Upgrade Funds Released

BK1809042795 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 14 Sep 95 p 7

[Report by Jim Bilasano]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Funds amounting to P [pesos] 74.8 million was released yesterday by the Air Transportation Office (ATO) to finance the upgrading of 83 airports all over the country, including the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), to conform with the standards set forth by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Air Transportation Assistant Secretary Panfilo Villaruel disclosed that President Ramos had ordered the immediate release of the funds to enable the country to restore its Category 1 status.

Villaruel said P20.5 million of the amount will be spent for security, P295 million for safety and P24.8 million for incentives and allowances to air traffic aviation experts to help boost their morale. He said each one will get P19,000 as incentive pay.

The ATO chief also pointed out the money for safety and security will be used for purchasing additional x-rays, navigational aids, aviation equipment, computers and training of personnel, including check-pilots used in various flight simulators.

Meanwhile, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) team that arrived Sunday to reassess the country's aviation safety capabilities completed its mission yesterday coinciding with the opening of the Air Transport Agreement in Washington D.C. between the US and the Philippine panels.

Neda Approves Integrated Infrastructure Program

BK1809051595 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 14 Sep 95 p 9

[Report by Jennifer D. Baldivino — all figures as published]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The proposed P [pesos] 90.7-billion integrated infrastructure program of the national government for 1996 was approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) board yesterday in its monthly meeting.

Neda Director-General and Economic Planning Secretary Cielito F. Habito explained that the infrastructure program was developed in coordination with the government's objectives of, among other things, completing the flagship projects; implementing the new foreign-assisted projects expected to be approved in 1996; rehabilitating and improving existing facilities; and implementing new projects with high socio-economic impact.

Habito added that the infrastructure program constitutes three sets. Set I covers the infrastructure programs and projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

The total budget allocated for the Set I is P28.9 billion, of which P24.66 billion will be given to the DPWH while P4.24 billion will go to the DOTC.

Under the program, the bulk of the funds for the DPWH is allocated for the highways sector, which will get some P15.6 billion. The next biggest allocation will go to flood control with a budget of P2.8 billion.

Meanwhile, Set II will involve the infrastructure projects of non-infrastructure developments with budgetary allocation of P.4 billion.

Of this amount, P4.14 billion or 22.18 percent will be utilized for agriculture-supportive projects of the Department of Agriculture (DA), while P4 billion or 42.7 percent will be allocated for the school building program of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS).

Set III covers those of government infrastructure corporations.

The important projects involved in the 1996 integrated infrastructure program include the following: Davao International Airport; Philippine Domestic Satellite System; C-5 Interchange; Metro Manila Skyway; Mactan and Baguio export processing zones; Batangas port development; Umiray-Angat transbasin; Panlipinon II modular geothermal; Leyte-Cebu interconnection; and the Manila South water distribution system.

Moreover, the program covers P6 billion worth of projects to be implemented under the government's Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) program.

But in an evaluation report submitted by the Congressional Planning Budget Office (CPBO), there was a reduction in the infrastructure spending by 21.6 percent, P10.31 billion lower than the this year's P27.74 billion.

He added that the P25.1 billion allotted for public highways this year was substantially reduced to 15.62 billion for 1996.

The country's infrastructure program receives only 9 percent out of the P474.1 billion budget of the national government for 1995.

The report likewise revealed that the current reduction could jeopardize the country's new found economic advancement without the much needed infrastructure projects specifically in the agriculture sector.

Army To Phase Out Five Infantry Divisions

BK1809041795 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 14 Sep 95 p 7

[Report by Isagani Valmonte]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City — At least five infantry divisions of the Philippine Army are to be phased out as part of a plan to strengthen the so called "Rapid Deployment Forces" (RDF) and regular Army forces.

Lieutenant General Orlando Soriano, Army commanding general, told newsmen here that the Army will downsize its eight infantry divisions into three.

Members of the divisions would be deployed to the RDF and "forward-based forces."

Soriano hinted that downsizing the Army is a result of a policy to diminish the role of Army in counter-insurgency operation. The lead role in counter-insurgency is being turned over to the Philippine National Police (PNP).

The military reservation here, home of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, has been designated as the new home of the RDF. The RDF would only be deployed to areas whenever needed. Soriano said that separate brigades of regular and reserve Army forces will be organized in Abra and Isabela provinces.

Next month, the army is moving the Special Forces Regiment (SFR) to Fort Magsaysay, the Ranger Regiment in Camp Tecson to Bulacan and the Right Armor Brigade (RAB) to Camp O'Donnell in Tarlac.

"We are gradually moving out of Fort Bonifacio," he said, stressing that the military camp has been sold under the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA). He clarified that the Army will still retain 100 hectares of land inside Fort Bonifacio.

Soriano failed to identify the divisions that will be phased out, but said that this would not result in a drastic cut in Army troops.

Brig. Gen. Jose Maria Solquillo, 7th Infantry Division commanding general, said that in the 13 provinces under the jurisdiction of his command, only two out of the

original 13 troops have been retained. The troops pulled out were deployed to Basilan, while members of the 701st infantry Brigade and the 73rd Infantry Battalion were sent back for retraining.

Thailand

Discussion of Drug Probe Committee Continues

Probe 'Could Take Some Time'

BK1609134995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 16 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The investigation into drug-trafficking allegations against Chat Thai figures could take some time, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Banhan Sinlapa-acha was responding to questions about whether he would hand over his interior portfolio to Wathana Atsawahem or Narong Wongwan if the public hearings panel cleared them of the American allegations.

The senior Chat Thai members will have greater power to negotiate for Cabinet posts if the panel, chaired by Dr Thanat Khoman, 81, finds in their favour.

Mr Banhan said the time was not ripe to comment on Cabinet posts for the two pending the outcome of the investigation, which he predicted would take a long time.

The prime minister was confident the US would cooperate by providing the panel with evidence on the allegations.

It was unfair, he said, that the accusations had barred senior politicians from important positions.

Mr Banhan denied Dr Thanat's panel had been set up specifically to clear Mr Wathana and Mr Narong.

Other politicians facing similar accusations could appeal to the panel for help, he said.

Panel executives, he added, joined voluntarily at his invitation.

Deputy Prime Minister Amuai Wirawan conceded it was hard to say how far America was willing to help the panel, whose credibility depended on the information it gathered.

The investigation would help uncover details which may help the cause of Mr Wathana and Mr Narong, said Mr Amnuai, who did not think it would damage relations with the US.

It was possible, he said, that inaccurate information caused Mr Wathana and Mr Narong to be denied visas to enter the US.

The US, he said may be acting as an unwitting tool to attack the politicians, and it might do well to make sure the accusations were justifiable.

Thailand did not have to conform to US expectations, he said.

Police Chief Gen Phot Bunyachinda declined to comment when asked if the panel was formed to serve the Government.

He was appointed to the panel because part of his experience in narcotics suppression, he said. [sentence as published]

Pol Gen Phot admitted some politicians were on the Police Department's blacklist for their alleged involvement in illicit drugs.

But he maintained he could not reveal the names as the matter was confidential.

Mr Wathana's secretary, Chat Thai MP Man Phatthan-othai, said his boss wants desperately to prove that he is innocent.

The panel provides the mechanism through which Mr Wathana can clear his name, Man said.

The committee was not likely to have any legal effect, he pointed out, and it would be premature to make a prediction concerning its success or failure.

But it at least provided Mr Wathana with the opportunity to clear himself of the charges and make this known to the public. He was sure Mr Wathana would provide full cooperation.

Asked whether the attempt would not be fruitless since the US might reject the committee's probe, he said the committee would point out that Mr Wathana had never committed any wrongdoing and that the accusations were groundless.

"It is better than letting the case linger with no action at all," he said

He said he supported the appointment of the committee despite its limited scope.

Cabinet secretary-general Wisanu Khrua-ngam said the panel could not make any ruling on the case because it was not legally competent to do so.

Dr Wisanu said the prime minister had the right to set up the committee; there was no other way to obtain proof.

The committee would probably conduct an investigation on other accusations against individuals, including drug charges.

The result of the investigation was to be forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Cabinet and related agencies such as the police department or the Office of the Attorney General.

But Chat Phatthana (CPP) deputy leader Prachuap Chaيسان said the Government should take action through parliamentary channels.

He was referring to Article 98 of the Constitution which stipulates that senators or MPs may submit the name of a member accused of bad conduct to their respective Speakers to seek that person's removal.

It is required that one-fourth of each House's members endorse the motion. Three-quarters of House members are required to expel the person accused of wrongdoing.

"Mr Watthana is a member of the legislative branch, so the Government should not overlook parliamentary measures which are there are to settle cases of this kind," Mr Prachuap said. [sentence as published]

A special committee could be appointed to gather information or documents as well as to conduct an investigation — a body of a scope similar to that of the public hearing committee.

Mr Thanat (chairman of the public hearing panel) or other qualified persons could chair such a House special committee, said the CPP deputy leader.

He said the Government could initiate the setting up of the committee without difficulty as it required only one quarter of all MPs for endorsement.

"Endorsement from the Chat Thai and Muan Chon MPs will do," he said.

Mr Prachuap said the term "public hearing" was a misnomer as the panel's task concerned only two people and no public opinion was sought. Therefore there was no need for a public hearing.

He passed a message to Mr Watthana that he himself could submit the motion calling for an investigation of his own case.

"Mr Watthana has said all along that his being rejected for the ministerial post meant he was being branded as the guilty one. This is the means through which he can prove his innocence," he said.

Inquiry Panel Member Comments

BK1609135095 Bangkok THE NATION in English
16 Sep 95 p A1

[Report by Sorayut Suthatsanachinda]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The inquiry commission set up to investigate United States drug charges against senior

Thai politicians will concentrate on probing the links they are alleged to have with known traffickers, a panel member said yesterday.

Members of the public, not the government-appointed commission, will decide after assessing the facts revealed by the panel whether the accused politicians would be allowed to clear their names, said Charan Phakdithanakun, secretary general of the Justice Ministry's Judicial Affairs Department.

Charan suggested that the commission should try to find answers to three main questions surrounding the drug charges against certain Thai politicians.

Firstly, did the US authorities have enough reason to suspect the politicians of involvement in the illicit drug trade?

"If the commission finds there is insufficient evidence on which to base the suspicion, then the matter will end there," Charan said.

But if it was established there were some grounds to believe the politicians were involved with drugs dealers, the second question to ask would be: did their supposed association with drug traffickers in any way facilitate the illegal trade?

If there was evidence to support the association with drug traffickers, the next step would be to find out whether such involvement constituted any criminal offences, he said.

"However, if it is found that their association with drug traffickers had actually facilitated the illegal trade, and even if that involvement cannot be prosecuted, the politicians will definitely be stigmatized for their actions," Charan said.

"Associating oneself with evildoers is enough grounds for suspicion of committing evil oneself. And these kinds of people should not be trusted to hold public office," he said.

The United States, citing provisions of its privacy act protecting confidential informants, has not revealed much of evidence on which a visa ban on the Thai politicians was based.

But the US information apparently revolved around alleged contacts between the accused and other traffickers.

Charan said the commission, chaired by prominent former diplomat Thanat Khoman, had no business dealing out favours to any of the suspects or the political parties to which they belong.

"The public commission of inquiry's duty is to find facts and publicize them. The public will be the judges," Charan said.

Meanwhile, MP Man Patthanothai (Chat Thai-Samut Prakan) said yesterday deputy Chat Thai leader Watthana Atsawahem would send a formal request to the public commission of inquiry to take up his case for consideration.

"Watthana would definitely ask the public commission of inquiry to take up his case to do him justice. He has been waiting for more than a year for a chance to clear his name," said Man, a close associate of Watthana.

Watthana and other politicians, including Chat Thai's chief adviser Narong Wongwan, have been denied entry visas to the US on the grounds that they were suspected of involvement in drugs trafficking.

Narong, who led the largest party after the 1992 general election, the Samakkhitham Party, was deprived of his candidacy to become prime minister when US authorities announced he was on a list of Thai nationals suspected of drugs trafficking.

Watthana was promised the interior portfolio after the July 2 general election but did not win the appointment because of the drug allegations by the US anti-drug agencies.

The US government earlier refused to supply evidence to substantiate the charges against them.

But a US Embassy official in Bangkok said on Thursday the embassy would cooperate "to the extent possible" with the public commission of inquiry in its fact-finding mission.

Police Director General Phot Bunyachinda said the Police Department had a blacklist containing the names of politicians and other individuals suspected of involvement in drugs trafficking.

"Yes, we have a blacklist of individuals, including politicians, in our top-secret drug file. But we have yet to decide whether it is appropriate to reveal the names on the blacklist if requested by the public commission of inquiry," Pol Gen Phot said.

Phot is a member of the public commission of inquiry.

Article Views Probe of Suspects

BK1609130295 Bangkok THE NATION in English
16 Sep 95 p A6

[Article by Yindi Loetcharoenchok: "Drug Probe Panel May Only Complicate the Issue"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finally, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha could not resist the growing pressure from his top Chat Thai Party colleagues cum rivals who want his government to take some action to clear their

names after the United States allegations of connections to drug trafficking.

Both Watthana Atsawahem and Narong Wongwan were extremely upset by Washington's disclosure that they were denied American entry visas following the US's suspicions of their alleged involvement with drug traffickers.

The politicians have persistently rejected the US accusations as groundless and challenged the US to back up its charges with concrete evidence and information, something Washington says it cannot comply with because of the "extremely sensitive and highly classified" nature of the information.

The establishment on Monday of a 12-member "public hearing" committee to investigate the US drug allegations did not come as a surprise as Banhan's personal advisers had floated the proposal long before the government was formed in July.

What is astonishing is the confession by a few of the committee members, all of them top officials from various government agencies, that they were not informed or consulted prior to their appointment.

They revealed in private interviews that they had received only on Wednesday letters signed by Banhan appointing them committee members.

As civil servants, they said they have to comply with the government's order, but they still expressed strong doubts about the nature and extent of the work they will be expected to do.

In separate interviews on Thursday some high-ranking government officials, who requested not to be identified, said they suspected the ultimate objective in setting up the committee was to "whitewash" both Watthana and Narong.

They also suspected that Banhan wants to use the committee, which comprises "very senior and highly respectable" officials from various key government agencies, "to rubber-stamp the credibility of the finding in the eyes of the public".

They said they believed Banhan had been pressured by both Watthana and Narong, and their supporters inside the Chat Thai Party, to introduce some government measures that would clear their names and thus pave the way for the smooth entry of the prominent politicians into the Banhan Cabinet.

While the officials expressed sympathy for Watthana and Narong over their defenceless position in the face of the US government allegations, they pointed to the fact

that Washington had stated that it would not recognize the panel.

The US has repeatedly indicated that it would not recognize such a committee nor cooperate in providing information or evidence.

Some of the evidence and information held by the US was supplied by individuals whose identities could not be exposed for fear of their safety and of compromising US drug suppression efforts and investigation processes, according to some US government officials.

The US Embassy has indicated a softened Washington stance, saying the United States would lend cooperation "to the extent possible" to the inquiry.

But Washington is unlikely to back down from its repeated warnings that the appointment to the Cabinet of politicians facing such allegations could "complicate" bilateral relations.

Under the US foreign assistance act Washington would have to stop extending assistance to the ministry headed by the accused.

Moreover, the US government, under its legislative requirements, would have to decertify Thailand for not cooperating in anti-drug combat and thus vote against monetary lending to Thailand by international financial institutes such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Wattana, an elected MP from Samut Prakan, and Narong, who leads a powerful faction inside Chat Thai, have not taken up Cabinet posts in the Banhan government but have been persistent in their bid to clear their names.

Former foreign minister Thanat Khoman, who has been appointed chairman of the probe committee, said he accepted the assignment because "as a Thai citizen I want to defend the national dignity and pride against interference into domestic affairs by a foreign nation, which is a violation of Thai sovereignty".

Thanat, a strong critic of the US' position in the narcotics stand-off, said he also wanted to provide "fairness" for the accused because they have been charged by the US without any supportive evidence being made public.

Moreover, he also wanted to defend the principle of law in any developed society which says that criminal charges must be backed up by supportive evidence and not just verbal accusations.

Thanat, a former Democrat Party leader, argued that the committee was not an "investigative panel" because he

was not a police officer, but more of a "fact-finding mission".

According to an official document signed by Banhan on the establishment of the committee, the "public hearing" committee is to look into allegations "by a foreign country against certain Thai citizens that they have been illegally involved in the trade of some kinds of goods".

It is to collect information, testimonies and comments from relevant government agencies and people concerned, with some hearings to be held behind closed doors, the document said. The panel is to report its findings to the prime minister for consideration.

The committee is to "bring truth to the public and ensure justice to all parties concerned".

Government officials said during interviews that they were confused by the term "public hearing" used to identify the committee. They said their knowledge of political science leads them to believe that the term "public hearing" referred to a gathering where members of the public were invited to express their views freely.

"But the government's 'public hearing committee' is in fact a closed-door investigation body that intends to 'disprove' the US allegations against Khun Wattana and Khun Narong," one of the officials said.

The Thanat panel's duty will surely be complicated by the differing laws of both countries. Wattana has been complaining that he has been "victimized" because he was "unaware" of business deals with a suspected trafficker, something which can be tantamount to a crime as far as US law is concerned.

Although reluctant to comment on the government-sanctioned committee, a few panel members confessed that they did not know the actual role of the committee, what its members would have to do and when they would meet.

Senior government officials said the Banhan government is in a dilemma. "The committee can carry out its duty, but an eventual report cannot be made if all members do not agree on a conclusion," one official said.

"If the report whitewashes Khun Wattana and Khun Narong, the United States will not recognize the findings and doubts by the Thai public will never disappear. Both men will continue to be denied US visas because of the allegations," he said.

"In the end, if either of them is put in the Cabinet, the government would then face a tough time in its relations with the US government," he said.

Column Criticizes Commission

*BK1709152695 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION
in English 17 Sep 95 p A4*

[Sophon Onkan's Column: "Whitewash team for white powder affair?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Critics of the Banhan Cabinet must be gaping with open mouths at the current administration's unlimited resourcefulness in committing acts of stupidity, the latest of course being the formation of the so-called "Commission of Inquiry."

The prime minister himself is an awesome wonder if one looks at the manner in which he created the commission with a single stroke of his pen. It also reflects a clear display of his strong sense of political survival. Machiavelli himself would have turned in his grave and urged the "keeper" to resurrect him in order to rewrite "The Prince", had he known of Banhan-styled cut-throat politics.

The prime objective of the commission is to set the record straight, or probably to distort the present record, involving two senior: Chat Thai Party heavyweights, Watthana Atsawahem and Narong Wongwan after having been denied entry visas by the US government.

The commission is headed by Thanat Khoman, who was foreign minister when bilateral ties between Bangkok and Washington were at its best, during the heydays of the Cold War. The communist bogeyman threat was floated about by the CIA to scare the wits out of Southeast Asian governments, and there was strong criticism that certain local figures were blind stooges of Washington.

After retiring from active politics as leader of the Democrat Party, Thanat strangely adopted a staunch anti-US stance, for reasons best known to himself.

That however doesn't matter.

The problem is that nobody gives a damn about the Commission of Inquiry. There is little that could be achieved in terms of public interest. Nobody, except the Chat Thai people, care whether Messrs Watthana or Narong have visa problems. Tens of thousands of Thai people have been denied visas by the US and other western embassies, by virtue of having passports that are stigmatized by others. So what's the big deal then when it comes to these two?

Thai people would gain nothing if Watthana or Narong were eventually granted visas. Would the country or Thai people be better off if they could travel to the US, or become Cabinet members?

The government has enough credibility problems even without their presence and their exclusion could be more than just a blessing in disguise. Banhan himself should know better than anybody else.

Another problem is that, although the commission has credible members whose track record is impressive, it is facing image problems now by virtue of being formed by the Banhan administration. Whatever the findings, it would be almost impossible to meet public acceptance.

Messrs Watthana and Narong could be dancing for joy, now that a commission has been set up to clear their names. The two now feel they will be finally exonerated of the allegations against them.

But hold on! Before both of them decide to party all night, it would probably serve them well to pause for a moment.

It could be that the man who initiated the Commission of Inquiry is not their true friend after all.

Let's look at it this way-another twist in the tale of Thai back-stabbing politics.

The commission could have been set up as a precautionary measure to ensure that Messrs Watthana and Narong are kept away from Cabinet seats due to recurring public doubt over their alleged involvement in the trading of forbidden substances. We all know that the two have been after Banhan for the post of interior minister. Public Health Minister Sano Thianthong, also a Chat Thai heavyweight, is demanding the same position. Banhan sees no reason, until now, why he should relinquish this powerful portfolio to any of them.

This has been a hard choice to make and that's why he has decided to keep it for himself amid growing pressure from the three and their underlings. In politics there is a sucker born every minute, but on the local scene these days the opportunity for them to be reborn is immense-just like the slithering snakes atop Medusa's head.

Fellow ministers have been taking turns defending the record of the two, while presenting a twisted logic that Thailand's dignity as a whole is being blemished by the US position on this affair.

Hogwash! The country's dignity could be seriously affected only when notorious criminals and drug traffickers are still not touched by the arm of the law, and when other illegal acts are condoned.

The latest act defying good sense is just for Banhan, and apparently for his two political mates, while the end result could be different and unpleasant. There is the need for more players to lend some credibility to

the whole scheme. Bureaucrats would fit well into this charade.

The way to console the two is to set up the commission. It is a hard-sell approach, and Banhan knows it. But he faces no real threat. On the contrary, public attention would be shifted from him to the commission and the two politicians. The two would not emerge smelling better, even after the commission proposed that the duo did not have anything to do with the alleged drug trafficking.

In their minds, each would want only himself to be cleared, so that he could lay his stakes on the interior portfolio. If they both are cleared, who in their view, should deserve the coveted post? Would Sano ever want to see anything positive coming out of this farcical affair?

Only Banhan will look good among the lot involved in this fact-finding brouhaha. Messrs Watthana and Narong would find out soon enough that public doubt about their past deeds will never dissipate but only deepen. The hard-sell commission, due to the lack of credibility and broad-based public acceptance, would be meaningless.

How can it dispel or refute something which is not yet a formal allegation? It's just a doubt, or negative perception over the activities of the two Chat Thai senior members. If the US says the two are cleared of wrongdoing, would they look good immediately in the eyes of the Thai public? Certainly not. There is more than just one facet to their overall image problem.

Their waiting would be endless. The work of the commission could go on and on. Banhan has not set any timetable. At least the duo could be mollified after seeing some kind of action by the party leader. But what would one do, being in Banhan's position? He is in no hurry. The whole sham can go on forever.

This is a sheer waste of time for commission members who are still in the civil service. Their toil should have been devoted to something else more beneficial to the public interest.

Will Banhan have the nerve to deal with the two, under due process of law, if a commission member stumbled on hard evidence confirming the US suspicion?

That's far-fetched, though. What is more likely is that, after a whitewash of the white powder affair, the commission will need a whitewash for its own act. Alas! The public cannot be fooled by an act of stupidity.

Vietnam

Prime Minister Meets Indonesian General, Envoy

BK1509160795 Hanoi VNA in English
1449 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 15—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here this afternoon the visiting commander-in-chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces General Feisal Tanjung now on a visit to Vietnam.

Senior Lieut. Gen. Dao Dinh Luyen, chief of the general staff and deputy defence minister and Indonesian Ambassador to Vietnam Mr. Jafar H. Arsegar were present at the reception.

Prime Minister Kiet welcomed the visit to Vietnam by General Tanjung and other Indonesian high-ranking military officers as a new manifestation on the friendly relations between the two countries particularly after Vietnam's admission into ASEAN. The prime minister wished that the Indonesian guests' visit to Vietnam this time would obtain fine results, thus contributing to further strengthening the mutual understanding and the friendship between the peoples and Armies of Vietnam and Indonesia and for peace, stability and development in the region.

For his part, General Feisal Tanjung expressed his pleasure at the achievements [word indistinct] by the Vietnamese people in their national construction, and his hope that the Vietnamese People and Army would obtain greater success in their national development.

National Assembly Delegations Travel Overseas

To Singapore

BK1809074395 Hanoi VNA in English
0600 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 17 — A delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh today arrived in Singapore, beginning an official friendship to Singapore, the second leg of its tour.

The Vietnamese delegation will also attend the 16th Congress of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) to be held in Singapore from Sept. 18-22 at the invitation of Singaporean Parliament Speaker Tan Soo Khoo who is also AIPO chairman.

The delegation was welcomed by Speaker Tan Soo Khoo and Vietnamese Ambassador to Singapore Nguyen Manh Hung at Changi International Airport.

The same day, the Vietnamese guests met and exchanged views with Mr. Tan Soo Khoo who warmly

welcomed the delegation's first Singapore visit and its attendance the 16th Congress of the AIPO and a ceremony to admit as a full member of the AIPO. He said that Singapore always attaches great importance to the friendly and cooperative relations with Vietnam and that the two countries would further broaden and strengthen the ties between the governments, the parliaments and the people of Singapore and Vietnam for peace, friendship, stability and cooperation.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh held that the delegation's current visit would mark a new step in the development of the friendship and cooperation between the national assemblies and people of Vietnam and Singapore. He reiterated that Vietnam always attaches importance to the promotion and development of those relations with Singapore.

Mr. Manh also thanked Mr. Tan Soo Khoo and the national assembly of Singapore for their active support for Vietnam's admission to ASEAN last July as well as their assistance to the Vietnamese National Assembly in its preparations for the joining of AIPO as a full member.

The two national assembly leaders informed each other of the situation in their respective countries and spoke about orientations and measures to further promote the cooperation and assistance between the two legislatures and peoples in the coming time.

This evening, the Vietnamese delegation was feted by the AIPO National Committee of Singapore.

To Romania

*BK1709094295 Hanoi VNA in English
0548 GMT 17 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 16—A delegation of the National Assembly headed by Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu paid a working visit to Romania from Sept. 10-15 as guest of the Romanian Grand National Assembly.

The delegation had working sessions with Romanian Senate President Oliviu Gherman and vice president of the lower house Dan Martian, and senior officials of the Justice, Foreign Affairs, Labour and Social Protection Ministries.

During the meetings, the two sides informed each other of the situation in their respective countries and discussed measures to promote the friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries' legislatures and peoples.

While there, the Vietnamese delegation was also received by Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu

who spoke highly of the significance of the high-level meetings between the National Assemblies, and the Governments of Romania and Vietnam. He also affirmed his guests of the further consolidation and development of their bilateral traditional relations in the new era. He said that his government would early work out concrete measures to carry out accords reached by the two prime ministers during the Vietnam visit last July by the Romanian PM [prime minister], thus paving the way for cooperative ties between branches, and localities of the two countries with a view to step up their direct cooperation.

Party Paper Discusses Freedom of Religion

*BK1809044195 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Sep 95*

[Article by Hong Tam in 15 Sep NHAN DAN: "Freedom of Religion and Human Rights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are many religions in Vietnam. Many people choose their religions, while others choose not to have one. Nevertheless, since time immemorial our people have always respected the national mores and cultural traditions and stressed patriotism. Diversity in religious beliefs has never prevented people from living in harmony with one another or has caused hatred and disunity.

Followers of religions have, together with the people as a whole, joined hands in the undertaking of national construction and preservation. When the country was put under the yoke of domination of the colonialists and imperialists, all religions suffered oppression. The aggressors always tried to prevent or interfere with the people's activities, and to spread terror to destroy our people's patriotism. Many religious devotees were arrested and imprisoned because of their patriotic activities. Devotees shared the sufferings of enslavement and oppression with others. Religious organizations were controlled and manipulated by imperialists. The aggressors always tried to create disunity within each religion and incite conflict between factions or religions, or between the religious and atheists. People who listened to them would enjoy reward and support, while those who opposed them faced prohibition and persecution. Aggressors used religion as tools to create disunity among the people, turning the people's opposition against the aggressors to opposition between believers and nonbelievers, or in other words, between communists and religionists.

In short, under the domination of colonialists and feudalists, our people did not have a chance to enjoy either the freedom of religion or human rights. A small

number of people belonging to the ruling class perhaps did enjoy some of those privileges.

Being the leader of the Vietnamese revolution, our party has always been concerned about the freedom of religion. In the very first meeting of the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, President Ho Chi Minh asserted that the freedom of religion was one of the most urgent issues of the newly established state. He said: Colonialists and feudalists implemented a policy that caused disunity between Catholics and non-Catholics. I recommend that our government declare the freedom of religion and welcome all religions as equal.

Our party, our state, and especially our President Ho Chi Minh always paid special attention to the freedom of religion and did everything possible to mobilize and unify all religious followers in the great all-people solidarity bloc. Ho Chi Minh always reminded cadres to pay attention to believers' aspirations and to help bring prosperity to their lives and peace to their souls. He also told religious dignitaries that in an independent country congregations need to live their lives in a way that the misunderstanding that believers still lived under the yoke of slavery of foreigners could be avoided, as the people as a whole have succeeded in regaining national independence. He clearly pointed out the positive teachings of religions and compared them with the common values and objectives that our people were pursuing in his effort to mobilize religious believers to participate in the people's undertaking.

Decree No. 234-SL on religious affairs, dated 14 June 1955 and signed by President Ho Chi Minh, clearly stipulated: The freedom of religion and of worship are people's rights. The government respects these rights and assists people in religious practices. The administration does not interfere with the internal affairs of religions. Religious organizations must obey the nation's laws as all other people's organizations.

The citizens' right to follow and practice religion, which was mentioned in the constitution, has been institutionalized into law by the National Assembly and government. These laws proclaim that the state protects all places of worship and that churches and pagodas destroyed by war or natural disasters will be repaired or rebuilt. The state creates favorable conditions for publishing prayer books and other religious materials, and for the import or domestic production of all religious materials and literature. The state also creates favorable conditions for educating and training clergymen.

The Buddhist Church has 21 basic Buddhism schools and two advanced institutes. The Catholic Church has six grand seminaries. The state allows churches to send clergymen abroad for training and study, and guarantees

religions' rights to external relations. Churches can participate in international religious conferences and invite foreign religious delegations for visits or meetings. Religions are also encouraged to participate in charitable and social activities, such as providing relief to natural disaster victims and caring for the disabled and the aged or sufferers of serious diseases. Misguided priests returning from reeducation programs will be helped to reintegrate into society. Those who are honestly willing to serve will be allowed to resume their former religious ranks and positions.

Laws and policies on religion have been applied to life and welcomed by dignitaries and devotees of different religions. Some 30,000 places of worship belonging to well-established religious communities now serve as venues for regular religious activities. More than 20,000 Buddhist pagodas, 6,000 Catholic churches, 500 Protestant chapels, 70 Caodaist oratories, and 70 Muslim mosques have been repaired or rebuilt. These numbers do not include the thousands of places of worship for traditional religious beliefs held among the population. These facts are a most vivid indication of the freedom of religion in our country. Nobody can deny this.

Lately, some people have raised their voices here and there to criticize Vietnam for human rights violations and disrespect for freedom of religion. Who are they? What are the motives for their actions? Given the fact that our whole country had to take up arms to fight foreign aggression for half of a century, splits among people or followers of different religions are normal. There was a time when different sects operated within single religions, fellow believers were separated from each other, hatred and conflict prevailed, and purges and excommunications were conducted. Then came a time when different sects within many religions united and made changes for the better to the extent that people described them in such terms as: a third golden age-type stage of development in history, or booming religious activities, as if there was intervention by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

In the past, places of worship were in ruins or were cordoned off by barbed wire set up by soldiers or policemen. Now places of worship serve as venues for solemn religious activities. In the past, the contingent of religious dignitaries was mixed and even included people in military uniform. Some dioceses were ruled by foreign missionaries. Now the contingent of religious dignitaries consists of people with integrity. It continues to increase both quantitatively and qualitatively. The people clearly know whether these religions enjoy human rights and the freedom of worship.

Who violated human rights and the freedom of religion in Vietnam? Who turned places of worship into outposts or watch towers? Who forced Catholics to serve as human shields around military bases and used youths of different religions as cannon fodder? Who dropped bombs on pagodas, churches, and oratories in a bid to turn the south into a no man's land and push the north back to the stone age? Who was responsible for the destruction of tens of thousands of places of worship, including the bombing of 500 Catholic churches in the north? Who spread false rumors to make tens of thousands of compatriots from different religions leave their homes, rice fields, and families? Who forced shepherds to live away from their flocks and caused places of worship to become cold and desolate because of a lack of incense and smoke?

On the other hand, who restored rice fields and orchards, resumed production, improved the people's living conditions, repaired places of worship to ensure regular religious activities, and facilitated the propagation of different religious beliefs? Who raised their voice to protest the bloodshed at pagodas and the defiling of many other places of worship in the south when the old regime arrested and detained many religious dignitaries and their faithful because of their patriotic activities? Why did the human rights champions remain silent when Buddhist Bonzes Tri Thien, Thien Khieu, Minh Nguyet, and Hanh Tue and Catholic Fathers Nguyen Van Tuong, Nguyen Thanh Dong, Dau Quang Linh, and Mai Lao Ba were deported to Poulo Condore in the context of the tiger cage-type freedom of religion?

Is it regarded as human rights and freedom of religion to keep weapons, explosives, dollars, literature aimed at inspiring illegal activity, publications aimed at denouncing the new regime, and even counterfeit money printing machines in solemn places of worship, thus creating the opportunity for bad elements to hide behind altars and sabotage social order and security?

A small number of people who served in the ruling machinery of the old regime and fled the country when that regime was overthrown by the people have now gone back to their old habits and tricks. They are exploiting and separating religions to find a way to have a negative impact on religious activity at home. They have set up organizations in some Western countries and carried out activities to denounce the Vietnamese state and smear the religious background that fostered them before but they chose to flee instead of staying with their fellow believers and rebuilding their religious congregations. Just look at the way they conduct their activities under the three-striped flag that belonged to a regime that is not recognized by people inside the country or the outside world. One can easily tell whether

they are priests or monks and whether their activities can be called religious. What are their motives, and who provides them with financial support? There is no need to find answers to these questions because they have been clearly exposed as people who are working against the interests of the people and religious believers.

A state must protect its national sovereignty and social stability and safety. All political and social activities in a free and democratic society must be within the framework of the law. The freedoms and democratic rights of individual citizens should not violate those of other citizens or of the community. Our country is democratic and law-governed, and every citizen should live and work in accordance with the Constitution and the law. All activities that break the law should be tried in accordance with the law.

Among prison inmates there are civilians and people who are former cadres, party members, and state employees. They were convicted not because they were civilians, cadres, party members, or state employees, but because they broke the law. Similarly, in recent times there have been some people — priests or otherwise — who have conducted activities breaching social order and security, distributed antigovernment documents aimed at harming the universal solidarity bloc, and in particular caused disturbances by resisting public officers on duty. They have been handled as lawbreakers according to the law, not as religious believers, and moreover not because of their religious activities.

Hostile overseas forces always try to incite bad elements in religion to cause social instability and confusion in people's lives. As soon as they are handled by the law, they scream noisily that the state is oppressing religion; violating human rights and freedom of religion. That is a brazen distortion aimed at turning white into black and concealing reactionary activities that truly violate our people's human rights and freedom of religion.

Commentary Hails Ties With European Union

*BK1609142095 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 15 Oct 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vice President of the European Commission Manuel Marin will pay a visit to Vietnam at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai. Mr. Marin, who is in charge of foreign relations with countries in the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America in development aid will be accompanied by a number of high-level officials of the commission. It will be the highest level visit from the European Commission to Vietnam since official establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and

this organization. Our editor takes this opportunity to review the relation between Vietnam and the European Union:

Vietnam and the European Union established diplomatic relations in November 1990. Prior to the signing of the framework agreement in July 1995, relations between Vietnam and the European Union mainly focused on humanitarian and scientific and technological aid. During the Gulf War period, the European Union granted Vietnam \$7 million for the repatriation of Vietnamese guest workers from Iraq and Kuwait.

But the European Union's greatest assistance was in the settlement of boat people together with other countries. It has granted Vietnam \$100 million to carry out the program of repatriation and reintegrate returnees from Hong Kong. So far, \$40 million of the aid has been used for job training and resettlement of the repatriates in Haiphong, Hue, Quang Nam-Da Nang. The European Union has also granted loans worth \$45 million to the returnees. The revolving fund was planned to end later this year, but because of its effectiveness the EU [European Union] has decided to extend it.

The European Union has also helped Vietnam switched the economic mechanism from that of state subsidy over to the market-oriented economy. In November 1994, the

EU signed an official agreement granting Vietnam \$20 million to carry out projects on auditing, accounting, banking, insurance, and standardization.

At the International Donor Conference in Paris in 1993, the European Union committed to help Vietnam \$40 million and at the same conference in 1994, it committed to grant Vietnam \$50.1 million. In late 1994, this organization granted non-refundable aid worth \$600,000 to Vietnamese flood victims.

At present, Vietnam and the European Union are negotiating on projects such as conservation and preservation of forest in Nghe An Province worth about \$20 million, malaria-control project about \$15 million, project on building information system on economic planning for the State Planning Committee on health, population, family planning, and others.

On trade, the total turnover was \$1.5 billion in 1994. Last year, Vietnam exported to EU textile goods worth \$280 million. Following the signing of the framework agreement, the European Union expanded the quotas of Vietnamese textile exports. At this visit, the two sides will discuss orientations and measures to further develop bilateral relations, and implement an agreement which has just been signed in July 1995.

Australia

Evans Views Uranium Exports to France

*BK1809100595 Hong Kong AFP in English
0944 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SYDNEY, Sept 18 (AFP)—Australia is to continue uranium exports to France, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Monday.

The minister made the statement as a poll, commissioned by Greenpeace, showed that 75 percent of respondents wanted the Australian government to stop uranium exports to France after Paris resumed nuclear testing in the Pacific.

An AGB-McNair survey of 1000 people across Australia found that 58 percent of people wanted their government to send an unarmed vessel to the French nuclear testing site at Mururoa Atoll as part of protests against the decision.

Saying that Australia had no plans to halt uranium sales to France, Evans noted that France would benefit from a ban on sales as it would allow it to buy uranium cheaper on the world market.

He told parliament in Canberra that any unilateral action to stop sales would also require the Australian Government to pay about 80 million dollars (60 million US) compensation to Australian companies.

Evans was asked whether French President Jacques Chirac had made a fair point when he said the Australian Government would not be selling uranium if it was outraged by the nuclear issue.

"He (Chirac) knows perfectly well ... that France stands to make a windfall gain of some 30-40 million dollars" by being able to buy uranium currently on the world market at lower prices than they are contracted presently to pay, Evans said.

"So there is a spectacular element of self interest in this."

Evans said Chirac and French ministers had also fundamentally misstated the reality of the conditions of supply of Australian uranium.

He said no Australian uranium was going into nuclear weapons production.

"If ... the French are saying that their uranium supplies from Australia are not properly subject to the safeguards arrangements that we have entered a treaty to guarantee, the French are immediately thereby drawing a question mark about all their sources of uranium supply from elsewhere round the world," he said.

Evans said France was placing at risk the operation of the safeguards system and the whole nuclear non-proliferation process.

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) — which operates the Ranger uranium mine in the Northern Territory — sells 272 tonnes of uranium oxide concentrate a year to France at 40,000 dollars (30,400 US) a tonne under a long-term contract with the energy utility Electricite de France, according to Australia's Uranium Information Centre.

This 11 million dollars worth of yellow cake constituted three percent of French uranium needs, but about 10 percent of Australia's uranium exports, said the centre.

Further on Evans' Comments

*LD1809102495 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0900 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans has accused French President Jacques Chirac of making hollow threats to stop his country buying Australian uranium. Michael Rowland reports the [minority opposition] Australian Democrats have used the resumption of Federal Parliament to attack the Keating government's stance on uranium exports:

[Rowland] Democrats leader [Senator] Cheryl Kernot says President Chirac has a point when he asks why, if concerns about nuclear testing were so strong, Australia was still exporting uranium to France.

[Begin Kernot recording] Doesn't this highlight the hypocrisy or at least ambivalence in Australia's policy? [end recording]

[Rowland] The foreign minister says President Chirac knows full well that Australian companies would be liable for huge compensation payouts if the uranium exports stopped. Senator Evans has told parliament the French would also gain by being able to buy uranium at cheaper prices:

[Begin Evans recording] So there's a spectacular element of economic self-interest in this, which one should appreciate at the outset. [end recording]

Donation Made for DPRK Flood Relief

*LD1809095695 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0900 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia is giving 100,000 dollars in emergency relief to North Korea, which has been hit by severe floods. Aid Minister Gordon Bilney says flooding in July and August has affected 500,000 people and caused enormous damage to buildings and infrastructure across the country. He says although

Australia suspended relations with North Korea in 1975, it cannot ignore its humanitarian obligations to help the large number of people affected by such catastrophic floods.

The aid will be provided through the United Nations, which sent a flood assessment team to North Korea late last month. The money will provide food, shelter, and medicines and help restore the country's infrastructure and agriculture industry.

Papua New Guinea

New Zealand, France Hold Talks in Port Moresby

'Strong Disagreement' Seen

BK1609093895 Hong Kong AFP in English
0903 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PORT MORESBY, Sept 16 (AFP) — Talks between New Zealand and France on nuclear testing in the Pacific ended on Saturday in what New Zealand's premier described as strong disagreement.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger made the comment when he emerged from over an hour of what he described as "vigorous" talks with France's Cooperation Minister, Jacques Godfrain.

At a press conference after the meeting, Godfrain said the conversation had been "courteous", but Bolger insisted there had been "strong disagreement" between the two men over the nuclear issue.

The two officials are in Papua New Guinea for dialogue sessions following meetings of the 16 nations of the South Pacific Forum, which ended Friday.

Bolger on Saturday reiterated the formal warning issued by the Forum that France's status as post-Forum dialogue partner would be "reviewed" if nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll continued.

France has so far tested one device, "the only number that is satisfactory for New Zealand," Bolger said, although he added that Wellington was not contemplating formally breaking diplomatic relations with Paris.

Nauru President Bernard Dowiyogo said Friday that most of the forum's 16 member nations wanted to ban France from their dialogue sessions forthwith, but had agreed to attempt to reach a full consensus.

More on 'Disagreement'

BK1609120595 Hong Kong AFP in English
1152 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PORT MORESBY, Sept 16 (AFP)—Talks between New Zealand and France on nuclear testing in the Pacific ended Saturday in what New Zealand's prime minister described as strong disagreement.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger made the comment when he emerged from more than an hour of what he described as "civilized but vigorous" talks with France's Cooperation Minister, Jacques Godfrain.

At a press conference after the meeting, Godfrain said the conversation had been "courteous", but Bolger insisted there had been "strong disagreement" between the two men over the nuclear issue.

The two officials are in Papua New Guinea for dialogue sessions following meetings of the 16 nations of the South Pacific Forum, which ended Friday.

Bolger on Saturday reiterated the formal warning issued by the Forum that France's status as a post-Forum dialogue partner would be "reviewed," and possibly withdrawn, if nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll continued.

Said Bolger: "I conveyed to the minister that this review would mean the withdrawal from France of this dialogue status."

France has so far carried out one test, and French President Jacques Chirac has stated that testing may be halted before the completion of all seven or eight scheduled tests.

"The only number now that would be satisfactory to New Zealand is one," Bolger said, although he added that Wellington was not contemplating formally breaking diplomatic relations with Paris.

"I have said all along that it is not my proposal to expel the French ambassador or to cut diplomatic ties with France," said Bolger.

Godfrain said he could not believe that countries of the Pacific would display such intolerance.

Godfrain told Bolger that the Mururoa test site would be transformed into a centre for scientific study after the conclusion of French testing.

As a study centre, Mururoa would provide a "data bank for all humanity" to profit from the knowledge gained from French testing in medical and environmental matters, including protection of coral, said Godfrain.

Bolger expressed skepticism concerning the plan to profit medically from the tests at Mururoa.

"I told the minister that I felt that the suggestion that what was being used to develop a mechanism for nuclear weapons was unlikely to have any application in medical science, but we disagreed on that," he said.

Added Bolger: "The world is moving away from rivalry between the nuclear powers. We are now facing a different world and I hope that President Chirac and the French government will understand this change."

Asked if it was accurate as Chirac had suggested that New Zealand wanted to "chase France out of the South Pacific," Bolger said this was "absolutely false."

Bolger said neither Australia or New Zealand had any desire to remove France from the Pacific.

"Why would we want to do that?" he said. "Such a suggestion is simply false."

Further on Talks

BK1609125795 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Zealand and France have strongly disagreed over nuclear testing at talks in Papua New Guinea [PNG]. New Zealand's Prime Minister Jim Bolger held over an hour of what he described as vigorous talks with France's Cooperation Minister Jacques Godfrain.

At a press conference after the meeting, Mr. Godfrain said the conversation had been courteous, but Mr. Bolger insisted there had been strong disagreement over the nuclear issue. The two are in PNG for dialogue sessions following a meeting of leaders of the 16 nations of the South Pacific Forum. Mr. Bolger reiterated the formal warning issued by the Forum that France's status as a post-forum dialogue partner would be reviewed if nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll continued.

Next Test 'Might' Oust France From SPF

LD1609125495 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1200 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been a tough day for Cooperation Minister Jacques Godfrain, sent to New Zealand to attempt to justify the resumption of nuclear tests. His first meeting with the New Zealand prime minister revealed a profound difference of opinions, with Jim Bolger declaring that the only thing that would satisfy him would be to see the number of French tests reduced to a single one.

He confirmed that in the event of a second test being carried out France might be excluded from the South Pacific Forum [SPF].

Godfrain Says Nuclear Bomb 'Sign of Peace'

BK1709122595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PORT MORESBY, Sept 17 (AFP)—France wants to convince the South Pacific that its nuclear bombs are a "sign of peace", French Cooperation Minister Jacques Godfrain said here Sunday.

"I have to say France wants peace in the world," Godfrain said. "We have to convince them that the atomic bomb is a sign of peace," he said after a meeting at Parliament House with Sir Julius Chan, Papua New Guinea's prime minister.

Chan said he found it difficult to understand the reasons for France's nuclear testing in the South Pacific and wanted Godfrain to take back to France a message to stop nuclear testing.

"I want to understand the profound reasons for all these tests," Chan said. "...it is very difficult for me to understand."

"But France has made the decision—we oppose it, we don't like it and my job is to persuade the minister not to do it again, and not to do the second one. What else do you want me to do?" he told reporters after meeting Godfrain.

Godfrain said he was not in the business of changing people's minds and said he would prefer people to look beyond the "short months," when the tests would continue, to the long-term relationship between France and the Pacific.

"Every statesman must think of (a relationship in terms of) years and years," he said.

Asked if he saw any contradiction in promoting a nuclear weapon as a sign of peace, Godfrain said: "For forty years it has never been used."

Godfrain also met Australia's Pacific Islands Affairs Minister, Gordon Bilney, on Sunday and told him he was not surprised at the Pacific's strong views on the nuclear issue.

Bilney said his country's only disagreement with France was over nuclear testing.

"We have opposed that strongly, we will continue to oppose that," he said.

Godfrain said he respected other people's opinions but said condemnation of the tests would not change France's position.

On Monday Godfrain will meet the South Pacific Forum's dialogue panel which will report on last week's 16 nation regional summit.

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